



*The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

*Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins, service script, pew cushions, and Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary.

You're encouraged to check-in at NMUMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude Harlan Otter

Words to Ponder:

God speaks from burning bushes and souls on fire.
May God grant us eyes to see and ears to hear, as we worship this day.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "O Living God" Chancel Choir
by Ken Bible

***Call to Worship** Mary Prause

L: Give thanks to the Lord
P: Call on God's holy name
L: Sing praises to our God
P: Tell of God's wonderful works
L: The Lord offers bread from heaven to satisfy our hunger.
P: God offers wisdom we can see.
L: Give thanks to the Lord.
P: Let everything that draws breath praise God.

***Opening Prayer**

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts on us than we are to seek them, and are willing to give more than we desire or deserve.
Help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

***Hymn of Praise** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" UMH#154

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ** Judith Lang

Children's Message Judith Lang

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Mary Prause

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace. Come into the way of brokenness of our lives and our land with your healing love. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance and to bow to one another in real forgiveness.

By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts and consume the pride and prejudice which separate us. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out our fear, and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Words of Assurance Judith Lang

Hymn of Response "Be Thou My Vision" UMH#451

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Mary Prause

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

2 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony^[a] of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. **4** My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom^[b] but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

The True Wisdom of God

6 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. **7** But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory **8** and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9** But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

10 God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **11** For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

(musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 5:13-20 Mary Prause

Salt and Light

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. **14** "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15** People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. **18** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,^[a] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore, whoever breaks^[b] one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Reflecting on God’s Message “God's Wisdom Made Visible“ Judith Lang

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Judith Lang

Offertory Anthem "Antiphonal Praise" Harlan Otter
by Steve Green & Linda Lee Johnson

***Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Offering Prayer Judith Lang

God provides abundantly for us and calls us to give generously to those in need. With gratitude for the blessings we have received, let us offer our gifts so that others may be blessed.

COMMUNION Musical Setting B

Communion Anthem "One Bread, One Body" UMH#620

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Faith of Our Fathers” UMH#4

Benediction

Postlude Harlan Otter

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596

Judith Lang | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Mary Prause

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Palmer, Samuel, 1805-1881. Sleeping Shepherd; Early Morning

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10.1.2023 | 9:30 am

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ.

Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here!

Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.