



\*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

Welcome and Announcements

NYAC Report

Introit "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" Chancel Choir  
By Mark A. Miller

\*Call to Worship Amanda Thomas

When we face obstacles and barriers that keep us from the life God has called us to,  
**We remember that God is always at work among us, protecting and tending our well-being.**

When we struggle to pay attention to how God is at work all around us,  
**We remember God's call to sit, eat, and tell one another the stories of God's faithfulness.**

Pilgrims on the way, when we watch for signs of God among us  
**Let us remember that we too are signs of God's presence for others! Amen.**

\*Opening Prayer

Loving God, Friend of the neglected and the despised folk,  
Friend also of the cherished and honored ones, we offer to you  
our prayers for this world for which Christ gave his all.  
We pray for the strong and the weak in this congregation, and for the spirit  
health of all other churches in the community.  
You, Holy Friend, are more eager to give than we are to receive. Deal firmly with your  
servants gathered here now, that we get rid of everything that clutters our souls and make  
way for all the new blessings you have in store for us. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

\*Hymn of Praise "Celebrate Love" TFWS#2073

\*Passing of the Peace Of Christ Renee Huckaby

Children's Message Matthew 19:14 Renee Huckaby

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Amanda Thomas

**Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.**

**We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote.**

**We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that.**

**We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do.**

**Amen.**

Words of Assurance Renee Huckaby

\*1st Reading Matthew 18:15-20 Amanda Thomas

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.  
If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. **18:16** But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **18:17** If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18:18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.  
**18:19** Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **18:20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

\*Hymn of Response "The Gift of Love" UMH#408

Reflecting on God's Message Romans 13:8-14 "Never Ending Debt" Renee Huckaby

Prayers of the People Renee Huckaby

Invitation of the Offering

**Offertory Anthem**

"The Beauty of Thy Love"

By Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

**\*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**

Renee Huckaby

God of love and compassion, we ask you to dedicate the tithes and offerings we bring to worship. We do this in the hope that you will do more with them than we could ever do on our own to heal the brokenness and division in our world.  
Remind us that the work of reconciliation does not get removed from our list because we put something in the offering and that mission field is within our arms' reach.  
This we pray in the redeemer's holy name, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn**

"They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

TFWS#2223

**Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Harlan Otter



\* Johnson, William H., 1901-1970. Going to Church

# **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **9.10.2023 | 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.*

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams  
Liturgist – Amanda Thomas  
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*