



*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

Introit Choir

***Call to Worship** Pat Tripp

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is none other than the house of God. The hour is now when true believers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks and bless his name. Amen

***Opening Prayer**

Holy and gracious Lord, you have always been. There is no one to pray to but you. The nation's of the world are yours. You are older than all need and all pain. Give us strength to understand and eyes to see. Teach us that we are relatives to all who live, for without you, we are nothing. Amen

***Hymn of Praise** "To God be the Glory" UMH#98

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

Children's Message "In God We Trust" Terri Hudak

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Pat Tripp

God of grace and glory, we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions but by our readiness to live boldly by faith. Help us to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen

Words of Assurance Judith Lang

***Hymn of Response** "I Love to Tell the Story" UMH#156

***1st Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Pat Tripp

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. **22** For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, **23** but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, **24** but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 5:12 Pat Tripp

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reflecting on God's Message "Life School." Judith Lang

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Judith Lang

Offertory Anthem 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

With hearts filled with singing we present our gifts and offer our lives to Christ. Receive these gifts of love and bless them with your grace. Amen

Judith Lang

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

“Be Thou my Vision”

UMH#451

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



*Lynch, Jessica Jane. Merciful Mother

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9.17.2023 | 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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Judith Lang | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Pat Tripp

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*