



*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 Harlan Otter

***Call to Worship** Rosaura Frias

Give thanks to the Lord.

Call on God's holy name.

Sing praises to the Lord.

Tell of God's wondrous deeds.

Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power.

Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.

Give thanks to the Lord.

Call on God's holy name.

***Opening Prayer**

Great I Am, you come to us in unexpected ways.

Excite our curiosity, that we might turn aside and realize we are standing on holy ground.

Appear to us in fire and wonder, that we might see worlds beyond the reaches of our imaginations.

Reveal the glory of your kingdom—where love is genuine, where evil is forsaken, where mutual affection abides, and hospitality is shown to strangers, where all are made one. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS#2129

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ** Pastor Ed

Children's Message Pastor Ed

Teacher Recognition Pastor Ed

Harlan Otter joins our Church hymnal, pg. 38, pp 14-16

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Rosaura Frias

Loving God, Holy Shepherd, we long for a higher calling.

When we would rather tend our flocks in peace than confront the powers of this age, open our hearts to your guidance and direction.

When we would rather keep silent than face the suffering of others, open our mouths to speak your truth.

Turn us from human considerations and set our minds on your kingdom, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" UMH#402

Prayer of Illumination (in unison) Rosaura Frias

As we listen for the word of God, turn aside from the worries and cares that imprison us in cages of our own making.

Listen with awe and wonder to the great I Am—the one who invites us to new and wondrous possibilities. Listen well, for we worship on holy ground.

Scripture Reading Psalm 105:1-6 & 23-26 Rosaura Frias

God's Faithfulness to Israel

1 O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,^[a] children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

²³ Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

²⁴ And the LORD made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes,

²⁵ whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

²⁶ He sent his servant Moses and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 16:21-28 Rosaura Frias

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the

third day be raised. **22** And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” **23** But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[2] to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

The Cross and Self-Denial

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25** For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. **28** Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Reflecting on God’s Message “Practicing at Being a Christian. Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem Harlan Otter

***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 Pastor Ed

God of new beginnings, receive the gifts of our hands, that hospitality might be extended to those in need.

Bless today’s offering, that the hungry may be fed and the thirsty may be satisfied.

May these gifts seal our commitment to do what is just and honorable in your sight. Amen.

COMMUNION Musical Setting B

Communion Anthem “One Bread, One Body” UMH#620

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Be Still My Soul” UMH#534

Benediction

Postlude Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Rosaura Frias

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Rudolf von Ems. Burning Bush, from Art in the Christian Tradition

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9.3.2023 | 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.