



*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:

Rejoice in the Lord always. God is worthy of our hearts' delight.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "O Living God" Chancel Choir
By Ken Bible

***Call to Worship** Bonnie Weed

Rejoice in God always. Again I say, Rejoice!

Take heart; the Lord is near.

Make it known among the people: God reigns.

Proclaim it from the rooftops.

Let gentleness and mirth be your guide.

Rejoice in God always. Again I say, Rejoice!

Take heart; the Lord is near.

***Opening Prayer**

Holy God, we come before you this day with praise on our lips and songs of joy in our hearts.

When we abide in your kingdom and live according to your ways, good triumphs over evil, love is stronger than hate, and truth wins the day.

Focus our hearts and minds on things that are worthy of praise and bless us with a peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart" (v1,2&5) UMH#160

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

Baptism of Carter Poeti Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Bonnie Weed

We seek your goodness, O God, for we search our hearts and find them wanting.

We seek your joy, source of mirth and laughter, for our limbs are weary and our hearts are heavy.

Set our minds on things that are excellent, admirable, and worthy of praise.

Shine the light of your love far and wide, that the world might strive after things that are just, righteous, and true. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Response** "There's a Spirit of Love in this Place" (x2)

W&S#3148

Prayer of illumination Bonnie Weed

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul.

Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***1st Reading** Psalm 106:1-6 Bonnie Weed

A Confession of Israel's Sins

1 Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

2 Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD or declare all his praise?

3 Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

4 Remember us,^[a] O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help us^[a] when you deliver them,

5 that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that we may glory in your heritage.

6 Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 22:1-14 Bonnie Weed

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: **2** "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. **3** He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. **4** Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' **5** But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, **6** while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. **7** The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. **8** Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. **9** Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' **10** Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. **11** "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding

robe, **12** and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. **13** Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ **14** For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Reflecting on God’s Message “Joyful Righteousness.” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem “Nothing Without Love” Chancel Choir
By Roger Emerson

***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 steadfast love, your bounty knows no bounds.
For the abundant gifts in our lives, we thank you.
For the peace that passes all understanding, we praise you.
For keeping our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, we honor you.
Receive the gifts we bring you this day, and help us stay focused on things that are excellent and admirable, holy and just, righteous and pure. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Great is Thy Faithfulness” UMH#140

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

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Bonnie Weed | Acolyte – Marcos Lora
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STUDY

MATTHEW
22:1-14

Parable of The Wedding Banquet
by Johann Georg Platzer (1704 - 1761)

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10.15.2023 | 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.