



*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:

Seek God's presence, that God's goodness, mercy, and grace may bless and strengthen you.
Who knows if the Lord may tuck you into a safe place and give you a glimpse of God's glory?

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Here I Am Lord"

Chancel Choir

By Dan Schutte

***Call to Worship**

Come, Holy God, draw near.

We long to see you.

Come, God of justice, be present today.

We need your grace in our world.

Come in this hour.

Show us your love.

***Opening Prayer**

Holy God, we long to sense your presence and be assured that you have drawn near.

Awaken us with your love and grace and show us your possibilities for our lives.

Assure us that we are not alone and that you walk with us always.

For this we offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" (v1,2&4)

UMH#64

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

"Gods Holiness and Righteousness"

Terri Hudak

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Carolyn Nuzzi

God of grace, though you are always present, you often feel distant.

Our minds seek to limit your reality to things we can understand.

Expand our imaginations, that we may see your kindness and grace at work in the world around us.

When our work becomes a burden and our struggles seem pointless, save us from despair.

Remind us to ground ourselves in faith and to reach out with hope and love,

as we seek to live in your ways. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"How I Love Jesus"

UMH#170

Prayer of illumination

Carolyn Nuzzi

God, you are wrapped in mystery beyond human comprehension.

Open our hearts to your presence as we seek your truth within the words we are about to hear.

Amen.

***1st Reading**

Psalms 99

Carolyn Nuzzi

Praise to God for His Holiness

1 The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

2 The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

3 Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!

4 Mighty King,^[a] lover of justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice

and righteousness in Jacob.

5 Extol the LORD our God;

worship at his footstool.

Holy is he!

6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees

and the statutes that he gave them.

8 O LORD our God, you answered them;

you were a forgiving God to them

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

9 Extol the LORD our God,

and worship at his holy mountain,

for the LORD our God is holy.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 22:15-22

Carolyn Nuzzi

Praise to God for His Holiness

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. **16** So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with

partiality. **17** Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" **18** But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? **19** Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. **20** Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" **21** They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." **22** When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Reflecting on God's Message "Between a Rock and a Hard Place." Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "As We Gather" Chancel Choir
By Mike Faye & Tom Coomes

***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

Holy God, your kindness and compassion surround us.
You alone are holy.
You alone bring meaning and hope to our lives.
We are grateful for all that you are and all that you give us.
Receive us and the gifts that we bring, that the world might know you
and the gifts you offer to those who ask.
Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "God Be With You Til We Meet Again" UMH#673

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 – Carolyn Nuzzi | Acolyte – Josiah Lora
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



*Thomson, Thomas John, 1877-1917. Autumn Foliage

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

10.22.2023 | 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.