



*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:

In the scriptures found in the Bible, you will find commandments of old and lessons from enigmatic parables.

But there is an older scripture—a scripture beyond words, a scripture as deep and mysterious as the night sky. For the heavens proclaim God's glory with every colorful sunrise and budding flower.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Harlan Otter

***Call to Worship**

Martha McMahan

Christ the cornerstone welcomes us to this house of God.

May our minds perceive God's word, even as our hearts receive God's love.

May God's Spirit bless us with wisdom and faith.

***Opening Prayer**

Holy Spirit, heavenly God, shine upon us with the wisdom of ancient words.

Enlighten our minds, that we may perceive your presence.

Strengthen our resolve, that we may press toward growth in love and faith.

Help us grow closer to your likeness each and every day. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"Jesus Shall Reign" (v1,2&5)

UMH#157

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Martha McMahan

God of grace and God of glory, bless us with your mercy and your steadfast love.

When we pursue pointless gains and embark on dead-end journeys, guide us back to your ways.

When we strive for our own righteousness, remind us that your righteousness is all we need.

When we reject your teaching, or, even worse, reject your presence,

love us and correct our ways.

Forgive us and welcome us home

into the arms of your grace and love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Response**

"The Church's One Foundation" (v1,2&5)

UMH#545

Prayer of illumination

Martha McMahan

Open our ears, O God, that we might hear your Word speaking to us in this moment.

Open our ears, O God, that we might listen for your voice calling to us through scripture.

Open our ears, O God, that we might understand your promises to followers both old and young, ancient and modern.

Open our hearts, O God, that we might enter into the love you offer us. Amen.

***1st Reading**

Psalm 19:1-14

Martha McMahan

-see insert

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 21:33-46

Martha McMahan

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. **34** When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. **35** But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. **36** Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. **37** Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' **38** But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' **39** So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. **40** Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" **41** They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;[a] this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?'" **43** "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. **44** The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." [b]

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. **46** They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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Reflecting on God's Message

"Why Doesn't God Do Something?"

Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering

Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem

Harlan Otter

***Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
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

UMH #95

Offering Prayer

Pastor Ed

Blessed One, bless those who receive these gifts.
Bless our words, our actions, and our gifts, that they may be blessings for your world.
And bless these offerings and this time of worship, even as you strengthen this community of faith and the ministries of this church. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

“ How Great Thou Art”

UMH#77

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



* Friedrich, Caspar David, 1774-1840. Woman at the Window.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10.8.2023 | 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 – Martha McMahon | Acolyte – Bella O’Rourke
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*