



\*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:**

Overflow with beauty and joy like the pastures and hills of a verdant spring. Shout and sing praise like the meadows and valleys of an abundant harvest.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

"Give Thanks"  
arr. Peggy Bettcher

Bell Choir

**\*Call to Worship**

Praise God, the giver of life.

**Praise God, who blesses our world.**

Praise God, who heals our wounds.

**Praise God, who cares for our needs.**

Praise God, the giver and maker of all.

Scott Caldwell

**\*Opening Prayer**

Generous God of abundance and life,  
Thank you for the many gifts of our lives.  
Thank you for this time of worship.  
Thank you for your constant presence.  
Thank you for your healing love.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In gratitude and joy, we pray. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

"Come Ye Thankful People Come" (v1,2&4)

UMH#694

**\*Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

**Children's Message**

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

Scott Caldwell

Creator of life and giver of all that we have, thank you for your amazing grace and your abundant love.  
When we reject your many gifts, forgive us.  
Open our lives once more to your generosity.  
When we neglect to give as generously as we have received, forgive our selfishness.  
Draw us back to the generous love that first drew us into the mystery of your love and the marvels of your world.  
When we forget to give thanks, forgive us.

Turn our thoughts back to you with joy and thanksgiving.  
In your grace and love, we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response**

"What Gift Can We Bring?" (v1,2&4)

UMH#87

**Prayer of illumination**

Scott Caldwell

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*1st Reading**

Psalms 123

Scott Caldwell

**Supplication for Mercy**

*A Song of Ascents.*

**1** To you I lift up my eyes,

O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**2** As the eyes of servants

look to the hand of their master,

as the eyes of a maid

to the hand of her mistress,

so our eyes look to the LORD our God,

until he has mercy upon us.

**3** Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,

for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**4** Our soul has had more than its fill

of the scorn of those who are at ease,

of the contempt of the proud.

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**

Matthew 25:14-30

Scott Caldwell

**The Parable of the Talents**

**14** "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; **15** to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once **16** the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. **17** In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18** But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. **19** After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20** Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' **22** And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' **23** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' **24** Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not

scatter, **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ **26** But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29** For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30** As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Reflecting on God’s Message** “Good Trouble.” Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering** Pastor Ed

**Offertory Anthem** “There is a Redeemer” Chancel Choir  
by Melody Green

**\*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

Generous, loving One, receive these gifts.  
May they be symbols of your generous love for all creation.  
Bless these gifts and those who give them, that all may become blessings to your world and signs of your glory.  
In your glory and grace, we pray. Amen.

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn** “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v1,2&5) W&S#3001

**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 – Scott Caldwell | Acolyte – Giovanni Lora  
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



\*Poorter, Willem de, 1608-approximately 1648. Parable of the Talents

# Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## 11.19.2023 | 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.*