



*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 recorded service.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Harlan Otter

Words to Ponder:

In the waiting, God calls.

May steadfast love and faithfulness rest in our souls.

May justice, righteousness, and peace guide our steps and define our community of faith.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Hopp Family

Introit

"Still Nacht"

by Franz Xaver Gruber

Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare by waiting with patience.

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare by living with faith and love.

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare by pursuing justice and peace.

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare, we wait, we pray.

May God bless us with both patience and passion.

We wait and pray to create the path of God.

Bonnie Weed

***Opening Prayer**

While we are waiting, come to us, O God.

Reveal your presence in our time of worship.

Guide our steps in our speaking and our doing.

Flow through our lives, our church, and our world with your steadfast love, unending faithfulness, righteous justice, and mysterious peace.

In patient anticipation we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" (v1,2&4)

UMH#211

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Bonnie Weed

Loving Shepherd, gather us in your arms of love.

Cover us with your mercy and grace, that injustices might be healed and transformed into righteousness, justice and peace for your world.

Guide us to your path, that we may be people who both await and who create your path of peace, justice, and love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"People Look East" (v1,2&4)

UMH#202

Prayer of illumination

Bonnie Weed

Hear what God will speak, for God speaks peace and salvation to those who listen.

***1st Reading**

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Bonnie Weed

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you,^[a] not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.^[b]

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening^[c] the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire? **13** But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Final Exhortation and Doxology

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, **15** and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:1-8

Bonnie Weed

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the good news^[a] of Jesus Christ.^[b]

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,^[c]

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,^[d]
who will prepare your way,

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "

4 so John the baptizer appeared^[6] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with^[7] water, but he will baptize you with^[8] the Holy Spirit."

Reflecting on God's Message "Go Tell it on the Mountain." Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "Mary, Did You Know?" Chancel Choir
by Buddy Greene

***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

Shepherd of love, all you have given us is good:
love and justice, peace and righteousness, faith and hope.
May the gifts we now give back to you become gifts of love and justice,
peace and righteousness, faith and hope. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" UMH#251

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 – Josiah Lora
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



Second Sunday of Advent

12.10.2023 | 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.*