



\*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:**

The Gospel of John starts out (v 1-3) with "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." The good news is Jesus was, is and forever will be God among us; Immanuel!

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
arr. Michael Praetorius

Chancel Choir

**\*Call to Worship**

**O God, you spoke your word**

and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.

**Fill all creation with that word again,**

so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations

**and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,**

we may become one living body,

**your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Perfect Light of revelation,

as you shone in the life of Jesus,

whose epiphany we celebrate,

so shine in us and through us,

that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,

enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

"Jesus Calls Us"

UMH#398

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

Chuck Samson

**Children's Message**

Terri Hudak

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

Jerry Jones

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we

have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not

loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your judgment.

**Words of Assurance**

Chuck Samson

**Song of Illumination**

"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

by Paul Baloche

\*see insert

**\*Old Testament Reading**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Jerry Jones

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**

John 1:43-51

Jerry Jones

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

**Prayer of Illumination**

Insistent God, by night and day you summon your slumbering people,  
So stir us with your voice and enlighten our lives with your grace  
that we give ourselves fully to Christ's call to mission and ministry. Amen.

Jerry Jones

**Reflecting on God's Message**

"Like a Microsoft Auto Fill."

Chuck Samson

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering**

Chuck Samson

**Offertory Anthem**

"Follow the Star"

arr. Helen Kemp

Chancel Choir

**\*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**

Chuck Samson

God of all wisdom, how often have we been deaf to your voice speaking to our hearts, especially when we move in a world that needs it so desperately? The reading from 1 Samuel brings us the phrase, "The word of the Lord was rare in those days," which resonates with the relevance of the evening news. As we bring our gifts to be dedicated this morning, we pray that you might open our ears, open our hearts to hear where you call us to respond with obedience, so that we might do what you need to begin healing our world. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); John 1:43-51)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**\*Sending Hymn**

"Here I am Lord"

UMH#593

**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.  
Do not let us fall 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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Lay Speaker, Chuck Samson | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams  
Liturgist – Jerry Jones | Acolyte – Bella  
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



\* Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. The Call to Samuel

# Second Sunday after the Epiphany

## 1.14.2024 | 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.**