



*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:

God is not a taskmaster keeping track of our good deeds. Rather, God intervenes boldly and relentlessly for the purpose of life and the restoration of creation.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

by Michael Praetorius

Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

Gathered in worship with silence and sound,

we wait upon God's grace.

Gathered in worship with focused heart and mind,

we anticipate the time we face.

***Opening Prayer**

God of Dreams, you have done great things for your people.

From times of old, you awaken the faithful to the dawn of your glory.

Fill our mouths with laughter.

Loose our tongues with shouts of joy.

Anoint us with the oil of gladness and make it known among all people

that we will live as oaks of righteousness, the plantings of the Lord. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

TFWS#2129

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

WE HEAR THE WORD

Bonnie Weed

Holy One, you have called us from the seashore to service in this world.

You have pulled us from our comfort

to embrace the inconvenience of servanthood.

You have put before us an opportunity

that we never truly wanted.

Like Jonah, who resented going where you sent him,

we are restless and resistant.

We'd rather sleep in a boat

and go about a casual kind of life.

We'd rather live our days as we always have

and let the tides carry us where they will.

May the storms of our days shake us

to new awareness and renewed paths

of faithful living. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“Whom Shall I Send”

UMH#582

Prayer of illumination

Bonnie Weed

The Word of God meets us where we are. God's call came to Jonah and found resistance. But even as an unwilling prophet, Jonah relented and brought judgment to the people of Nineveh. God's call came to fishermen on a seashore. Unlike Jonah, these men responded faithfully and immediately. As we listen to these scriptures, rather than judging how others respond to their call, consider how we respond to God's call in our lives. God is always leading humanity toward redemption and forgiveness, even when hearts are resistant.

***1st Reading**

#787 Psalm 62:5-12 (sung)

Bonnie Weed

⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;

they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,

¹² and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

For you repay to all

according to their work.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Mark1:14-20

Bonnie Weed

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news^[a] of^[b] God **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;^[c] repent, and believe in the good news.”^[d]

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Reflecting on God’s Message “What Does it Mean; ‘to be a Disciple of Christ’” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Gustav Holst 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 Pastor Ed

Restorer of divided hearts,
bless our gifts this morning.
Make our offering a path to holy living and action.
May our very lives reflect the truth of our faith
and our commitment to your world.
With generous hearts, we pray. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Jesus Calls Us" UMH#398

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 – Marcos Lora
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC



*Basaiti, Marco, approximately 1478-1530. Call of the Sons of Zebedee

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

1.21.2024 | 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.