



*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:

What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth?

What have you to do with my joys and my hopes, with my hurts and my losses? Come with grace and mercy.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

by Michael Praetorius

Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

Fount of Life, Glorious One,

your great works are full of honor and majesty:

the earth that we stand on, the trees that shade us,

the birds that soar above us.

Ever-Living God, Generous One, your goodness and faithfulness endure forever:

the wisdom we learn, the justice we long and work for, the hope you offer.

Sheltering God, Healing One, you remember your covenant and its promises to us:

the grace and mercy you give, the healing you offer, the tenderness you show to us.

The works of your hands are faithful and just.

Your teachings are trustworthy and true.

Your praise endures forever! Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

Faithful God, we stand in this congregation to give you thanks with our whole hearts, for your works are great.

Your massive power upholds the universe, and yet it is so intimate, it upholds our lives, tiny in the scale of the galaxies.

You provide food for us and for all your creatures, from goldfish to whales, hummingbirds to eagles, ants to elephants.

You nurture life in the seas, yet watch over the deserts.

Your work is full of honor and majesty.

Thank you for being mindful of us all, remembering your promises.

May your creative love and faithful power endure forever. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“All Creatures of our God and King”

UMH#62

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Martha McMahan

Gracious God, when we speak of your great power, the power that abounds in creation all around us, we sometimes wonder if it is in our own lives.

We hear that you are faithful, that you remember us and your promises, yet there are places in our lives that don't feel quite right.

We often wonder what you have to do with our lives, especially in the places that hurt.

Help us trust your promised grace, for we long to touch your healing peace. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“Be Thou My Vision”

UMH#451

Prayer of illumination

Martha McMahan

Wondrous Spirit, gather our minds that they may be one with you. Open our ears that they may hear your Word. Soften our hearts that they may receive your wisdom. Speak to us for we, your servants, are listening. Amen.

***1st Reading**

Psalm 111

Martha McMahan

Praise for God's Wonderful Works

1 Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

3 Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

8 They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it^[a] have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:21-28

Martha McMahan

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. **22** They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. **23** Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, **24** and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” **28** At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reflecting on God’s Message “Would We Recognize Jesus?” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People
Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem “A Child of Hope” Chancel Choir
 by Lani Smith

***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

Holy One, Jesus of Nazareth, Spirit from on high, may our gifts reveal your grace and mercy far and wide.
 May others learn of your faithful love through the power of your works and through the gifts we bring this day.
 May they also learn that you have everything to do with their lives.
 Amen.

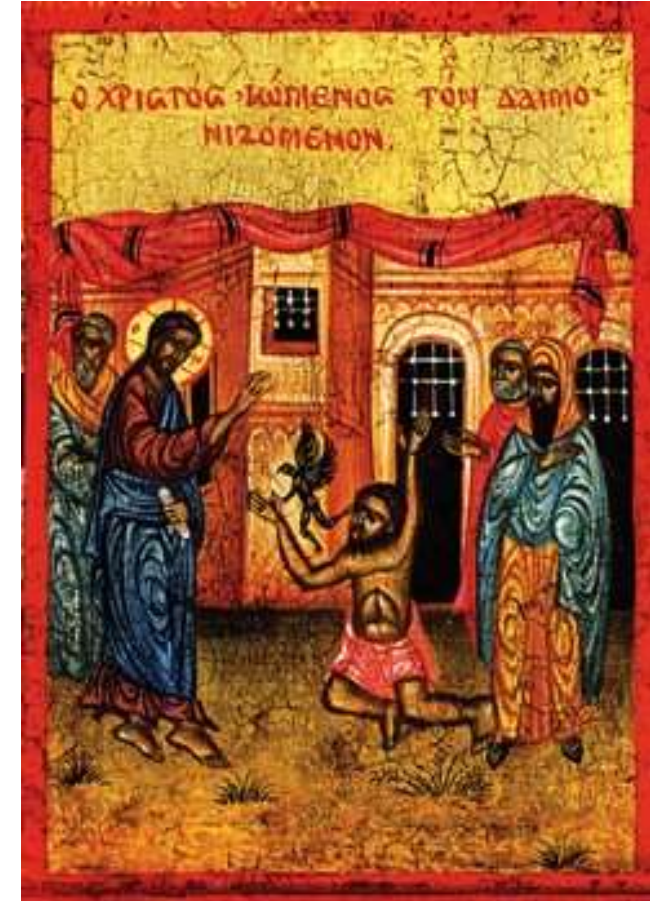
WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Guide Me O Great Jehovah” UMH#127

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

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596
 Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
 Liturgist – Martha McMahon | Acolyte – Colin | Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

1.28.2024 | 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.