



***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 zoom recorded service.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Harlan Otter

Words to Ponder:

You are God's beloved child. God is pleased with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

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

Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

Listen for God's word . . .

calling forth creation.

Listen for God's word . . .

working with power and majesty.

Listen for God's word . . .

speaking blessings.

Listen for God's word . . .

in this moment.

Pat Tripp

***Opening Prayer**

God of power and majesty, you call forth creation,
acting with strength and power.

We praise you, as we stand in awe of your glory.

You are mighty and powerful, and yet you care for us,

pouring your Spirit of love upon us,

recreating us for your work in the world.

You are at work in our midst,

offering a new day of hope and possibility.

Open our hearts to the sound of your voice.

Send the power of your Spirit among us,

that we might become agents

of your love and peace. Amen.

Pat Tripp

***Hymn of Praise**

"Morning Has Broken"

UMH#145

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Pat Tripp

God, we are so tired.

The holidays were a wonderful, busy time,
as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

As we return to life without festive celebrations,
we long to avoid feeling let down or discouraged.

Teach us to listen for your gentle voice.

Help us awaken to the quiet stirrings of new life
in our hearts and in our communities.

As your children, called into being by your word,
remake and renew us,

that we may follow you with joy. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"Spirit Song"

UMH#347

Prayer of Illumination

Pat Tripp

Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth, who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost: Come to us, open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power, for you live and reign with God and Christ now and forevermore.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Pat Tripp

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

1 When God began to create^[a] the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[b] swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:4-11

Pat Tripp

4 so John the baptizer appeared^[a] 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^[b] water, but he will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of Jesus

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. 11 And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved;[d] with you I am well pleased."

Reflecting on God’s Message “Remember Your Baptism.” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem “Follow the Star” Chancel Choir
by Gloria Shayne

***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

God of strength and glory, you created all that is.
You continue to sustain the world with the power of your love.
You give us life and hope, and with grateful hearts, we bring these gifts to you.
May they bring forth your realm of peace for all peoples. Amen.

***Remembering Your Baptism (reference UMH#50)**

COMMUNION

Communion Anthem "One Bread, One Body" UMH#620

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” UMH#420

Benediction

Postlude Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Pat Tripp | Acolyte – Giovanni
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC



* Bondone, Giotto di, 1266?-1337. Baptism of Christ, from Art in the Christian Tradition

Baptism of Our Lord

1.7.2024 | 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.