



\*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:**

When clouds threaten, look for signs of light and life: a rainbow, a bird, a gentle rain, the waters of baptism. These gifts of love bring hope and wash us clean.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** "On Eagle's Wings" Chancel Choir  
by Michael Joncas

(\*congregation participation is encouraged)

**\*Call to Worship** Chris Prause

Bring your lives, full of sorrow and joy.

**Bring yourselves, full of hope and despair.**

Come in your brokenness, ready for fullness of life.

**Stay in your weakness, ready to receive strength and the power of God.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Source of hope, bring us into the presence of hope.

Inspire us with the strength of faith.

Shower us with the waters of mercy and grace, that our hope may be renewed as we learn to trust your promise and love.

Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise** "Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days" UMH#269

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

**Children's Message** Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)** Chris Prause

Merciful God, you know the worries and the doubts that fill our lives.

Strengthen our faith and inspire our trust.

Shower us with your mercy and grace, that we may embrace the fullness of life and love, through the power of your Holy Spirit and the mercy of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**Words of Assurance (responsive)**

Pastor Ed

God is good.

**All the time.**

And all the time,

**God is good.**

Trust this truth and receive God's gifts of mercy and love.

**Amen.**

**Hymn of Response** "Lead Me, Guide Me" TFWS#2214

**Prayer of illumination** Chris Prause

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**\*1st Reading** Genesis 9:8-17 Chris Prause

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading** Mark 1:9-15 Chris Prause

**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;[a] with you I am well pleased."

**The Testing of Jesus**

**12** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

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

**Reflecting on God’s Message**      “Of Compasses and Watches.”      Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering**      Pastor Ed

**Offertory Anthem**      "Come, Holy Spirit"      Chancel Choir  
by Mark Foreman

**\*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

Trustworthy and trusting God, thank you for entrusting us with this good earth.  
Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.  
Help us live up to your trust, even as we learn to place our trust in you.  
Bless the gifts that we share, that they may honor the generosity you have shown us.  
In trust and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn**      “O Love, How Deep”      UMH#267

**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 – Chris Prause | Acolyte – Chloe Jacobson  
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC



\* Ermakova, Natalia. Noah's Ark Icon

# First Sunday in Lent

## 2.18.2024 | 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.**