



**\*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 New Milford UMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

**Prelude** Harlan Otter

**\*Opening Hymn** "O-So-So" (v1) #2232

**Scripture Reading** Joel 2:1-2, & 12-17 Steve Kolitz

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
 Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
**2** a day of darkness and gloom,  
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
 Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
 a great and powerful army comes;  
 their like has never been from of old,  
 nor will be again after them  
 in ages to come.

**12** Yet even now, says the LORD,  
 return to me with all your heart,  
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

**13** Rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
 Return to the LORD, your God,  
 for he is gracious and merciful,  
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
 and relents from punishing.

**14** Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
 and leave a blessing behind him,  
 a grain offering and a drink offering  
 for the LORD, your God?

**15** Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
 sanctify a fast;  
 call a solemn assembly;

**16** Gather the people.  
 Sanctify the congregation;  
 assemble the aged;  
 gather the children,

even infants at the breast.  
 Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
 and the bride her canopy.

**17** Between the vestibule and the altar  
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
 Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
 a byword among the nations.  
 Why should it be said among the peoples,  
 'Where is their God?'"

**\* Hymn** "O-So-So" (v2) #2232

**Scripture Reading** 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Bonnie Weed

<sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**6** As we work together with him,<sup>[a]</sup> we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**\* Hymn** "O-So-So" (v3) #2232

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 6:1-6 16-21 Pastor Ed

**Concerning Almsgiving**

**6** "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.<sup>[a]</sup>

**Concerning Prayer**

<sup>5</sup> "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.<sup>[a]</sup>

### Concerning Fasting

<sup>16</sup> “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>[a]</sup>

### Concerning Treasures

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust<sup>[b]</sup> consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust<sup>[c]</sup> consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

\* Hymn “O-So-So” (v4) #2232

### RECEIVING THE ASHES

\* Hymn “Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes” #2138

### \*Declaration of Pardon and Peace

Pastor: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In Jesus Christ, we all have peace.

### *The Great Thanksgiving*

UMH, pg.13

### SENDING FORTH

### \*Dismissal with Blessing

LL: May God, who has forgiven and fed us, now make us strong for these days ahead.

May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.

May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness, burning away the chaff of our lives, and purifying our hearts for all to see and be blessed.

**Pastor:** And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Mercy, Master, and Fire, Be with us and remain with us always!

People: Amen!



\*Spitzweg, Karl, 1808-1885. Ash Wednesday

## Ash Wednesday | 2.14.2024 | 6:30pm

*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.**

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*All members of the New Milford UMC*