



\*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** "Nightfall" Harlan Otter  
By David Lanz

**Words to Ponder:**

Grace is the gift that binds us to God. It protects us, redeems us, restores us, and makes us whole.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** "Near the Cross" Bell Choir  
by Fanny Crosby

**\*Call to Worship** Scott Caldwell

The goodness of God beckons,  
**calling us to goodness and grace.**

The grace of God redeems,  
**saving us and making us whole.**

The love of God welcomes,  
**inviting us to worship and praise.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

God of goodness and grace, gather us in your arms of love.

Gather us as people of your goodness and grace.

Gather us in worship and prayer, that we may be strengthened with faith and courage.

Gather us as those who are eager to live and to share your goodness and grace. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise** "To God Be the Glory" UMH#98

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

**Children's Message** Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)** Scott Caldwell

Gracious God, lift up our hearts this day, for we long to see your salvation.

Lift us up from the pits of sin and sorrow, that we may walk in the light of your love and grace.

Create us anew as reflections of your light and as offerings of your grace.

For we yearn to bless everyone we meet, even ourselves, in your name.

In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance** Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response** "Are Ye Able?" UMH#530

**Prayer of Illumination** Scott Caldwell

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*1st Reading** Ephesians 2:1-10 Scott Caldwell

**From Death to Life**

**2** You were dead through the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world,<sup>[a]</sup> following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.<sup>[b]</sup> **3** All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, **4** but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ<sup>[c]</sup>—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places<sup>[d]</sup> in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— **9** not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading** John 3:14-21 Scott Caldwell

**14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>[a]</sup>

**16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17** "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."<sup>[b]</sup>

**Reflecting on God's Message** "Do You Want a Piece of My Cookie?" Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering** Pastor Ed

**Offertory Anthem** "On Eagles Wings" Chancel Choir  
By Michael Joncas

**\*Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”  
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

UMH #95

**Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, you have richly blessed our lives  
with love and bounty beyond measure.  
Bless these gifts we return to you now,  
that they may bestow the same richness  
of your love and grace in the world. Amen.

Pastor Ed

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn**

“Amazing Grace” (v1-4&6)

UMH#378

**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**

"Prelude in D Minor, BWV 926"  
By J.S. Bach

Harlan Otter



\*Andō, Tadao, 1941-. Interior of the Church of the Light

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

## 3.10.2024 | 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.*

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams  
Liturgist – Scott Caldwell | Acolyte – Gabriel Lora  
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*