



*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:

We are changing.
 You are changing.
 God is already at work in you, renewing your spirit.
 Anticipate the new thing that God is doing.
 Can you feel it?

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Near the Cross”
 by Fanny Crosby

Bell Choir

***Call to Worship**

Have mercy on your people, O God.

Wash us. Cleanse us.

Make us more perfect in your love.

Open the skies and pour down your grace upon your people.

Open our hearts to hear your voice.

Let the thunder of your presence awaken us!

Have mercy on your people, O God.

Restore within us the joy of your salvation.

Draw us nearer to Jesus, our Christ!

Jerry Jones

***Opening Prayer**

God of love and mercy, open our hearts to your presence as we worship you this day.

Whether our prayers are filled with celebration or with loud cries and tears, remind us that you are the source of our eternal salvation.

Give us the strength to respond faithfully to your transforming love, that the joy of your salvation might shine in and through us all.

Wipe away our wrongdoing,

clean our hearts, and make us more perfect For it is in your perfect love that we are drawn more fully into your image. In the name of the glorified Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“This is the Day of New Beginnings” (v1-4)

UMH#383

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children’s Message

Terri Hudak

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Jerry Jones

God of steadfast love and mercy, we have shielded our eyes from the evil and injustice in the world.

We have turned away from your forgiveness and your compassion, and from your wisdom and your guidance.

We have allowed our voices to be silent.

Cleanse us.

Purify us.

Remind us that we still have much to learn, and that you continue to teach us.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that our faith in you might be renewed.

In humble confidence, we pray. Amen

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“Where He Leads Me I Will Follow

UMH#338

Prayer of Illumination

Jerry Jones

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. **Amen.**

***1st Reading**

Hebrews 5:5-10

Jerry Jones

5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by^[a] the one who said to him,

“You are my Son;
 today I have begotten you”;

6 as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
 according to the order of Melchizedek.”

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus^[b] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. **8** Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, **9** and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, **10** having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

John 12:20-33

Jerry Jones

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. **21** They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” **22** Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. **25** Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

27 “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. **28** Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I

have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” **29** The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” **30** Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. **31** Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. **32** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself.” **33** He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Reflecting on God’s Message “As Long as There is Life, There is Hope.” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "God Exalted Him" Chancel Choir
By Tom Fettke

***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

Generous and all-loving God, grant us the wisdom to know you more completely.
Give us the hope to live as your people.
Inspire us to give of our spirits more fully, in the faith that your promise is already within us.
As we give our gifts and tithes today, we recommit ourselves to your service and to the service of your people.
May we do so in response to your unending call that beckons us and leads us home.
We pray as followers of the glorified Christ. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Lift High the Cross” UMH#159

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 – Jerry Jones | Acolyte – Chloe Jacobson
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC



* St. Vitale - Abel and Melchizedek Sacrificing

Fifth Sunday in Lent

3.17.2024 | 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.