



*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 livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Harlan Otter

Words to Ponder:

Are you searching tombs and memories for Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified?
Open your eyes to wonder.
Our God is full of surprises.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Ode to Joy”
by Ludwig van Beethoven

Bell Choir

Joan Pond

***Call to Worship**

This very day, God has acted.

Today, we will rejoice and be glad!

We know the message that God sends to all people.

God's peace, preached by Jesus Christ, is available to all through the Lord of life.

The one who lived among us,

doing good and healing all,
was crucified, dead and buried.

But God raised him on the third day.

This very day, God has acted.

Today, we will rejoice and be glad!

***Opening Prayer**

God, just as you raised Jesus from the dead, you offer us new and transformed lives in the risen Christ.

We rejoice and give thanks for this good news, which has been handed down to us from generation to generation.

May we, too, be witnesses of Jesus, who you anointed with the Holy Spirit to bring blessings of mercy and healing.

May we be witnesses of Jesus' suffering and death, and how he meets us in the broken places of our lives.

Most of all, may we be witnesses of the resurrection, sharing your promise of forgiveness and grace with all people.

This is your doing, O God.

It is marvelous in our eyes. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today (v1-4)”

UMH#302

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Special Performance

“The Strife is O'er”

Youth Bell Choir

Special Performance

“Hallelu Praise Ye Lord”

Sunday School Choir

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Joan Pond

Risen Jesus, how we long to proclaim the good news we have received—

you are risen,

the tomb is empty,

and you are present with your friends.

Remind us not to look for you in the places where we lost you—

our grief,

our failure,

the death all around us.

For you have been raised.

You are not trapped in some tomb.

Help us proclaim your resurrection

with confidence this day.

Flawed as we are, help us perceive how deeply we are loved,

for your grace and mercy never fail. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“Were You There?”

UMH#288

Prayer of Illumination

Let us Hear now the good news of Easter.

Let it spread throughout the world. It began with Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection; it continued with those who witnessed the risen Christ; and now, it comes to us today, as we listen to God's word. Amen

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Joan Pond

Gentiles Hear the Good News

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

(musical interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

John 20:1-18

Joan Pond

The Resurrection of Jesus

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. **2** So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” **3** Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter

came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7** and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look^[a] into the tomb; **12** and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. **13** They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." **14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,^[b] "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). **17** Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" **18** Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflecting on God's Message "He Has Risen!" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People Pastor Ed

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory anthem "I Call Him Lord" Chancel Choir
by Dottie Rambo

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed

Holy God, thank you for your goodness and mercy, especially for the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

May these offerings, and indeed our very lives, become a witness to all people of the salvation and grace, you bring into the world. Amen.

***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

COMMUNION

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" TFWS#2088

Benediction

Postlude "Hallelujah Chorus" Chancel Choir
by George Frideric Handel

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Joan Pond | Acolyte – Giovanni Thomas, with his assistant, Josiah Thomas | **Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC**



Easter Sunday

3.31.2024 | 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.