



*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

Call to Worship

Leader: The Israelites cried out to God in their oppression.

People: Their voices still echo around the globe.

Leader: God hears the cries of the suffering, and delivers those who wait on God.

People: All who suffer, who die, who are alienated are precious to God; Let us love the Lord who restores liberty, And gives us hope for peace.

Leader: Today we remember the One who gave himself for us, Jesus the Christ.

People: Let us worship God!

Welcome

Pastor Ed

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Jesus, Lamb of God, we bless you today, remembering what you have done for us. You poured out your life to show us the love of God. Today we celebrate your gift of life as we somberly recall your death and exult in your resurrection. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD

*Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

Patty Dayton

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, **2** "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. **3** Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^[2] for his family, one for each household. **4** If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. **5** The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. **6** Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. **7** Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. **8** That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. **9** Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. **10** Do

not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. **11** This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. **13** The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

Hymn

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

UMH#286

Dramatic Reading

Pastor Ed

Holy Thursday Narrative

Jesus – Jerry Jones

Peter – Chris Prause

Hymn

"What a Wonderous Love is This?" (v2)

UMH#292

COMMUNION

Leader: Jesus said, "Where two or three come together in my name, I am with them". On the night before he died, Jesus had a meal with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me". After supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is Gods new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me." We meet together as friends of Jesus, who has invited us to share this meal. We remember that the Faith has been passed on to us by those in every generation who dared to follow Jesus. We remember, too, that we belong to a world-wide family of Christians of every kind. Let us greet one another as sisters and brothers in Gods family. May the peace of God be with you.

People: And God's peace with you.

Leader: As we think about God's greatness. love and goodness to us, we begin to be aware that we do not always behave like members of God's family. Often we have not cared about God or about other people, or about the world we live in. Let us look at ourselves honestly and ask God to forgive us.

People: Loving God, even now we do not know how far we have turned away from you. Bring us back. Send your Spirit like a strong wind into our lives; disturb our complacency, expose our faults, drive out our pride and selfishness. Help us put right the things we have done wrong. Make us willing to forgive those who have wronged or hurt us. Clear away our grudges and bitterness.

Demolish the walls we have built between us. Freshen our lives with your presence. Help us to live in love and peace with all people.

People: Lord's Prayer

Leader: God forgives us. Each of us is set free to make a new beginning.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: When Jesus took bread and wine, he gave new meaning to commonplace things. In the same way God can use and transform the everyday lives of ordinary people. Almighty God, your love is greater than we can imagine or deserve. You loved us long before we knew or loved you. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ you showed that nothing can destroy your love or separate us from it. You welcome us as Jesus welcomed all who came to him: children and old people, the lowly and the powerful, saints and sinners, strangers and outcasts, the sick and the healthy, those who search for truth. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to be part of God's purposes for the world by raising the bread and wine together.

(Leader takes bread and cup and raises up together.)

People: Lord, receive these gifts, harvest of the earth and product of human hands. We humbly ask you to accept us with both our strengths and our weaknesses. May all be used to serve and honour you. With all our hearts we thank you, Lord. Help us to recognize your presence and grow in your love. By your Spirit, may this bread and wine unite us with Christ and give us life and wholeness.

Leader: The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup which we drink is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
In the communion, God binds us together as members of one family.
Let us remember to care for one another as God cares for us. Let us remember too our responsibility to care for other people and for the world which God created. Go into the world in peace, renewed and strengthened by Gods Spirit.

People: We go to serve in the name of Christ. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Hymn "In Remembrance" TFWS#2254

Benediction

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgists: Patty Dayton

Ministers:

All members of the New Milford UMC



* Jesus washes his disciples feet, from Art in the Christian Tradition

Holy Thursday

3.28.2024 | 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.