



*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:

Connected to Christ through the power of love, we become the presence of God for the world.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "The Risen Christ" Chancel Choir
by Keith Getty & Phil Madeira

***Call to Worship** Chuck Samson

As members of Christ's tree of life,
we are connected, in love, to God.
As members of Christ's tree of life,
we are connected, in love, to one another.
As members of Christ's tree of life,
we strengthen our connection through worship.

***Opening Prayer**

Loving God, send your Spirit among us now.
Bind us to you in love this day, that we may worship in unity and friendship.
Bind us to you in love this hour, that we may be strengthened to bring abundant love to your world.
In love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "Gather Us In" TFWS#2236

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

Abiding in God's love, let's share signs of love and peace with one another.

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Chuck Samson

Speak truth to our hearts, O God.
Speak love to our lives, that we may remain in your love and share your love joyously with others.
Speak grace to our souls, that we may rest in your grace and forgive others as we have been forgiven.
Speak mercy to our world, that all the world may know your love and find redemption in your grace.
In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" UMH#703

Prayer of Illumination Chuck Samson

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** Acts 8:26-40 Chuck Samson

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south^[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) **27** So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." **30** So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. **32** Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" **35** Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. **36** As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"^[b] **38** He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** John 15:1-8 Chuck Samson

Jesus the True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If

you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[s] my disciples.

Reflecting on God's Message "Who Done It?" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "Every Morning is Easter Morning"
by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh Chancel Choir

***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 Pastor Ed
Loving God, bless these gifts with love.
Transform lives with our ministries, that your people everywhere might know your grace, abide in your love, and connect with Christ, the vine of life. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Down To The River To Pray" W&S#3164

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

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Chuck Samson | Acolyte – Josiah/Gabriel Lora
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC



Fifth Sunday of Easter

4.28.2024 | 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.