



*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:

Second Sunday of Easter...Jesus was betrayed, falsely convicted, crucified died and was buried. We celebrated the empty tomb, last week. And so, we started the Easter season, as the disciples at first hid, fearing the worse, Jesus came to them, blessing those who believed and returning to those who needed to see, in order to believe.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“The Risen Christ”

by Keith Getty and Phil Madeira

Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

L. How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

P. It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,

L. on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

P. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

All. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore. Psalm 133

***Opening Prayer**

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever.

Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“In the Garden”

UMH#314

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Chuck Samson

Children’s Message

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Pat Tripp

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your judgment. For our sake, and the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways that lead to glory. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Chuck Samson

Song of Illumination

“Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord”

by Paul Baloche

(chorus)

Open the eyes of my heart...

open the eyes of my heart...

I want to see you, I want to see you. (repeat 3x)

To see you high and lifted up,
Singing in the light of your glory,
Pour out your power and love,
As we sing, Holy, Holy, Holy.
I want to see you. (Chorus 2x)

(Ending)

Holy, Holy, Holy...

Holy, Holy, Holy...

I want to see you. (repeat)

***1st Reading**

1 John 1:1-2:2

Pat Tripp

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life--this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us--we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

John 20: 19-31

Pat Tripp

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but

believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Prayer of Illumination

Reflecting on God's Message "No Room for Mythology." Chuck Samson

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Chuck Samson

Offertory Anthem "Spirit of God" Chancel Choir
by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

***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

 Chuck Samson

Generous God, as we gather to offer our tithes and offerings, we are reminded of the words of the apostle John about the Word of life. Just as your Word brings light into our lives, may our giving be an act of generosity, a reflection of the abundance of your grace and love. We thank you for the forgiveness and grace offered through your Son, Jesus Christ, and as we give, may we also steward these gifts wisely for the betterment of your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. (1 John 1:1-2:2)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "The Old Rugged Cross" UMH#504

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

Chuck Samson | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Pat Tripp | Acolyte – Gabriel Lora

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. Christ shows himself to Thomas

Second Sunday of Easter

4.7.2024 | 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.