



**\*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**

When God sowed the seed of covenant love in Abram and Sarai, God's love extended to their whole family tree – descendants who would be more numerous than the stars in the sky. How many, like us, have found a home within its branches?

**Welcome and Announcements**

Annual Conference Report

Pat Tripp/Marlene Davis

**Introit**

“Come Holy Spirit”

Chancel Choir

By: Israel Houghton

**Call to Worship**

Chuck Samson

God of covenant love,

**We praise you for planting seeds of your love within Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants.**

God of incarnate love,

**We marvel at the magnificent family tree that your divine love has created among us.**

God of welcoming love,

**We thank you that you have made a home for us within the branches of your family tree.**

God of everlasting love,

**We worship you, we love you, and we honor you with all that we are.**

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

Chuck Samson

**Holy God, we humble our hearts before you in thanksgiving and awe.**

**For by your mercy, we find ourselves at home in the branches of your family tree.**

**We discover ourselves to be a people with a love that never fails.**

**We find ourselves within your grand love story for all time and all creation.**

**Whom can we thank, but you, for such great mercy?**

**Bring your kingdom into our midst as we worship you this day. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

“This is the Day of New Beginnings” (V 1-4)

UMH # 383

**\*Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

**Children/Teacher Appreciation**

Terri Hudak

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

Chuck Samson

Holy God, you do not see as mortals see;

for you look not at outward appearances but rather on the heart.

We long to be found worthy when you look upon our hearts.

We yearn to forsake our petty grievances and our unkind thoughts.

We wish we could shuck our selfish motivations and our deceptions.

God, please help us be the best versions of ourselves.

It's painful to admit the harm we do to one another.

Create in our hearts a burning desire to please you.

Grant us the courage to see our hearts as you see them, and give us the wisdom to trust your love.

For you seek to transform us into your new creations.

Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response**

“Open My Eyes So I May See”

UMH#454

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Ed

Living Word of God,

Like garden soil prepared for tender spring plants,

Our hearts and minds are ready to receive

The gift of your divine love story.

May it live and grow in us forever. Amen

**\*1st Reading**

2Corinthians 5:10-17

Chuck Samson

<sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive due recompense for actions done in the body, whether good or evil.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people, but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;<sup>16</sup> even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,<sup>16</sup> we no longer know him in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there<sup>17</sup> is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

*(Musical Interlude)*

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 4:26-34

Chuck Samson

<sup>26</sup> He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup> He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Reflecting on God’s Message**

“Pizza”

Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering**

Pastor Ed

**Offertory Anthem**

“Great is the Lord”

Chancel Choir

By: Debbie & Michael W. Smith

**\*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

This is our heart’s desire, loving God, that you would take our money and our time, our prayers and our service, and transform them into the currency of your kingdom. Amen

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn**

“I’ll Fly Away”

TFWS # 2282

**Benediction**

(2Corinthians 5)

Placing your hands over your hearts, receive the new thing that God is creating within you.  
Reaching your hands toward your neighbors, bless the new thing that God is creating within them.  
Reaching your hands toward the world, bless the new thing that God is creating in the world.

**Amen!**

**Postlude**

Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Chuck Samson  
Liturgist – Kimberly Rothen | Acolytes - Arianna O’Rourke  
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC

# Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



## Children’s Recognition

# 6.16.2024 | 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.*