



- ***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

Laugh with Sarah, as life grows within the womb of an old woman. Stand in amazement with the crowds, as illiterate fishermen perform the miracles of God. Forget what you think you know. Expect miracles; for with God, anything is possible!

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Come Holy Spirit”

Chancel Choir

By: Israel Houghton

Call to Worship

Mervin Alexander

When we have been cast aside in the deserts of our lives,
you open our eyes to life-giving water that sustain us in our need.
 When our future seems lost and others have taken our place of honor,
you restore our hope and promise us an inheritance of our own.

Who is like you among the gods?

Who answers prayer in times of deepest need?

We are here to worship you, O God,
for you alone can save us.

***Opening Prayer (in unison)**

Mervin Alexander

Eternal God, turn and be gracious to us, for the road is long and we are weary.
We feel beaten down by the trials of life and need your strength to sustain us.
Show us your favor, and offer us your blessing, that we may abide in faithfulness and not be put to shame.
 Comfort us, O God, and revive our souls.
Grant us the endurance to take up our cross, and follow the difficult roads in life. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

UMH # 519

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Mervin Alexander

Holy One, your words cause us to tremble:

“nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not be known.”

There is much in our lives that we wish to hide from others, even ourselves.

We fear those who kill the body, while ignoring those who kill the soul.

**Teach us once more, O God, that your Son came to bring us life—even if turned son against father,
 and daughter against mother.**

Remind us of our higher calling, and the promises you offer of life in your realm which has no end. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“How Firm a Foundation”

UMH#529

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**

Psalms 8 (UMH #743)

All

¹ O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

² Your glory is changed above the heavens by the mouth of babes and infants:

you have set up a defense against your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

and mortals^[a] that you care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made

them a little lower than God^[b]

and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 10:24-39

Mervin Alexander

²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[d] ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.
³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.
³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me,³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Reflecting on God’s Message “We Are Worth So Very Much” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem “For the Beauty of the Earth” Chancel Choir
By: Ron Huff

***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

Receive the gifts of our hands, O God, that they may be signs of your love and grace for a divided world.
Through our offerings, help others follow the ways of life.
Fill the world with your mercy, Holy One, that your faithful everywhere will honor you, by sharing your kingdom each and every day. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “It Is Well With My Soul” UMH # 377

***Lord’s Prayer**

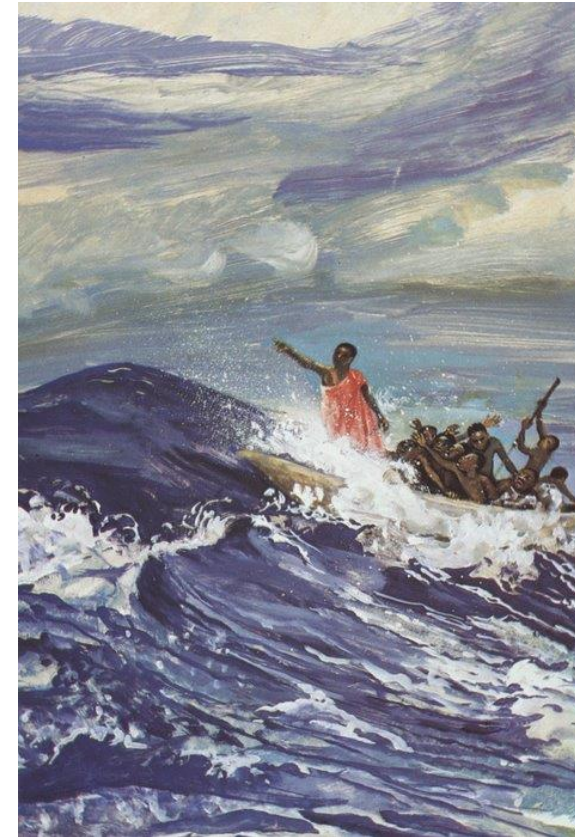
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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 – Mervin Alexander | Acolytes - Josiah Thomas
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



6.23.2024 | 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.*