

## HOLY COMMUNION



[Communion is a time when we celebrate and share in the presence of the risen Christ around His Table. This is an open Table and all are invited. **You need not** be a member of this Church or any Church; **you need not** be baptized. **You need only desire a closer encounter with God.** John Wesley, the founder of the people called Methodists, believed that it is possible to have a conversion experience during Communion, and so all are welcome at the Lord's Table. We use unfermented juice of the grape at the service of Holy Communion. Gluten-free bread with separate cup is available as is the receiving of Communion at your seat – please speak with an usher.]

**The Great Thanksgiving** [please refer to pages 13 & 14 of the *United Methodist Hymnal*]

**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.**

**Prayer After Receiving**

"A Blessing for After"

[adapted from poem by Jan Richardson "Circle of Grace: A book of Blessings for the Seasons"]

## GOING FORTH

✦ **Closing Hymn 224**

"Good Christian Friend, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

✦ **Commission, Benediction and Passing of the Peace**

"Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light"

[adapted from poem by Jan Richardson "Circle of Grace: A book of Blessings for the Seasons"]

**Postlude**

musical selection by Tim Smith

**liturgy:** adapted from poems by Jan Richardson "Circle of Grace: A book of Blessings for the Seasons"; and worship elements liturgy posted at [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com)

**cover image:** Escape to Egypt & Flight into Egypt by, Qi He posted at [diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu](http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu)

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Youth Leader, Brinna Kolitz | Lay Leaders: Marilyn Fuller & Pat Tripp

**Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC**

# New Milford United Methodist Church



**Celebration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas  
January 1, 2017 @ 9:30am**

*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, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.*



\* **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.  
**Listening Assistance devices** are available at the entry of the sanctuary.

## ENTRANCE & PRAISE

**Prelude** musical selection by Tim Smith

### Welcome & News

✚ **Opening Hymn #220** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" [v.v. 1, 2] REGENT SQUARE

✚ **Call to Worship** "As on a Day of Festival" Tony DosSantos  
[adapted from poem by Jan Richardson "Circle of Grace: A book of Blessings for the Seasons"]

Call it the waters of salvation or the garlands of gladness.

**Call it the grave-clothes falling away,**

or call it the loosing of the chains.

**Call it what binds us together: fierce but, fragile but, fierce.**

Call it *he will rejoice over you with gladness;*

**Call it he will renew you in his love;**

call it *he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.*

**Call it the thin, thin place where the veil gives way.**

Or call it this:

***the path we make when we go deep and deeper still into the dark  
and look behind to see the way has been lit by our rejoicing.***

For God-is-with-us... Let us Rejoice!

**Prayer of Invocation** "Blessing to Summon Rejoicing" Pastor Alex  
[adapted from poem by Jan Richardson "Circle of Grace: A book of Blessings for the Seasons"]

**Hymn of Praise #220** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" [v.v. 3, 4] REGENT SQUARE

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

**Lighting of the Christ Candle & Prayer for Illumination** "Where the Light Begins"  
[adapted from poem by Jan Richardson "Circle of Grace: A book of Blessings for the Seasons"]

**Children's Message** "Revolution Sunday" Pastor Alex  
[adapted from concept by F. Woodruff at on thechancelsteps.wordpress.com]

✚ **Gospel Reading** "Matthew 2:13-23" [MSG] Tony DosSantos

**Listening for God's Message**

"Now What...?"

Pastor Alex

**Call to Reconciliation**

**Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

Tony DosSantos

[adapted from liturgy posted at ministrymatters.com]

***O God of goodness and light, illumine a path for us  
by which we may walk in faithfulness.  
Too often we have lost our way.  
Too often we have lived out of our pride and stubbornness  
and failed to turn to you in our times of need.  
You have given us all that we need to live sober lives in a right mind.  
Impel us to sin no more and give us a more perfect knowledge  
of your divine ways in the world.  
Help us accept the forgiveness you offer if we but only ask for it.  
Grant us the opportunity to celebrate this coming year with a  
faithfulness that we scarcely knew we had in us.  
Power this celebration through your Holy Spirit—  
the greatest gift you can offer us today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***

**Words of Assurance** [adapted from liturgy posted at ministrymatters.com]

Release the burdens of the past. Relinquish control from that which is only in God's hands.  
Allow the peace of God to dwell in you. You are forgiven. Accept the gift.  
Relax in the warmth of God's embrace.

**Hymn of Response #560**

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

ACCEPTANCE

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering of Tithes and Gifts**

musical selection by Tim Smith

✚ **Doxology #94**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**Offertory Prayer** [adapted from liturgy posted at ministrymatters.com]