

GOING FORTH

✠ **Closing Hymn #725** "Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come" [v.v. 1, 3, 4, 5]

✠ **Commission, Benediction & Passing of the Peace** [by W. L. Wallace and Kate Compston]

People of God,
may the star we follow be the steady radiance of God's mystery,
the Light of the World, of which we catch but a glimpse.

***May Love rise like a star within us,
shining light on the paths of justice and compassion we are called to travel.***

Postlude musical selection by Tim Smith

"The Worship Is Ended: The Service Begins..."

A Blessing of the Chalk for Marking the Door

God of doors and homes, bless this home this year and every year.
Bless all who come and go through this door,
both those who live here and those who visit.
May all who enter through this door come in peace and bring joy.
May all who come to this door find a welcome and love.
May the love and joy in this home overflow
and spread into the community and the world.

New Milford United Methodist Church

Sunday Celebration of the Epiphany January 6, 2019 @ 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 identity, age, race, religious background, economic status,
sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.***

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596

Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, Pastor - mobile: 415.706.5397 | Music Director, Tim Smith

Youth Leaders: Kelly O'Rourke, Mike Walsh, Heather Morin

Lay Leaders: Scott Caldwell & Mike Walsh

Ministers: All members of the New Milford



* **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 New Milford UMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude musical selection by Tim Smith

Welcome & News

✚ **Opening Hymn #220** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" [v.v. 1, 3, 4]

✚ **Call to Worship** Marilyn Fuller

Yahweh, this year, we will follow the Star of Bethlehem.

Too long we've gone the wrong way and followed the wrong stars!

We went West following movie stars, greed, and lust.

Star of Wonder...

We went East following stars of war.

Star of Light...

We even went North following our self-centered visions, and our own way.

Yahweh, this year, we will follow the Star of Bethlehem.

The Star of Hope, The Star of Peace.

The Star of Joy. The Star of Love. The Star that is You, our Gracious God.

Prayer of Invocation [by Glenn Mitchell] Pastor Alex

Anthem Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Sung Prayer for Illumination #247 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" [v. 1]

✚ **Gospel Reading** Matthew 2:1-12 [MSG] Marilyn Fuller

The Word of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God!***

Message on the Chancel Steps "Light of the World" Pastor Alex

[from concept by Lauren F. Winner & onthechancelsteps]

Listening for God's Message Pastor Alex

Prayer for Reconciliation [adapted from liturgy by Thom M. Shuman]

Assurance of Pardon [text adapted from liturgy by Thom M. Shuman @ lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com]

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts,
love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

***This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry
and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.***

Hymn of Response #257 "We Meet You, O Christ"

Offering of Tithes & Gifts musical selection by Tim Smith

✚ **Doxology TFWS #2036**

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, God's Son,
And now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks. Give thanks.***

Offertory Prayer



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 and gluten-free bread at the service of Holy Communion. Please signal to one of the ushers if you'd like to receive Communion at your seat.]

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharist Prayer & LORD's Prayer [IN UNISON]

Prayer after Receiving [adapted from laughingbird.net]

***We give You thanks for Your beloved Child, Jesus,
who You made known to the magi from the east,
who knew of Him only what the silent stars could tell.***

***You have drawn us again to His feet
and in Him we have found the fulfillment of all our searching.***