



**NEW MILFORD
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



First Sunday in Lent | 02 . 21 . 2021 | 9:30am



* **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 or lift your hands** if able and comfortable.

Please invite your friends to join our worship services on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome + Announcements

Patty Jacobsen

*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 Savior 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 each other as beloved children of God!***

Opening Prayer (written by Moira Laidlaw)

Pastor Sophy Gamber

God of storms and rainbows,
God of rain and sunshine,
God of all creation, we worship and adore you.

We gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation
and marvel at stormy skies transformed with the vibrant colours of a rainbow.
Like Noah and his family,
we praise you for this everlasting sign of your love and care
for the whole creation in your desire to preserve and not destroy life.

And at Jesus' baptism,
the sky again revealed your love
when you identified him as your beloved Son,
strengthening him with the same Spirit
who empowers and strengthens each of us.

For all these assurances of your love for us and for the whole creation,
we praise and worship you, O God,
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale" (UMH #122)

Corky Ballard

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars.
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast.
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave.
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal.

How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook.
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart.
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Hebrew Bible Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

Pastor Sophy

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, **9** "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, **10** and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. **11** I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." **12** God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **13** I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **14** When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, **15** I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. **16** When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." **17** God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:9-15

Janet Parsons

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!***

Listening for God's Message

"A Sign"

Pastor Mel Kawakami

Pastoral Prayer

Deacon Deb Clifford

If you are joining us online on Facebook during the livestream, we encourage you to type your prayer concerns in the comments section so that we can be in prayer with you over the week.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response: "Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"

**Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC**

Invitation to Offering

In gratitude for these gifts and for God's presence with us, let us bring our offerings.

Please consider making an offering online <https://bit.ly/NMUMCGive>

Unison Offertory Prayer

Valorie Kolitz

God of our salvation, your bow in the clouds proclaims your covenant with every living creature. Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth, that by your Holy Spirit, we may remember our baptismal vows and be keepers of your trust with earth and its inhabitants. Bless the offerings we bring, that they might be blessing to others and to your world. We dedicate our gifts to your glory. Amen.

A Choral Lord's Prayer

**Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC**

You are invited to sing or pray, aloud or silently, whichever version of the Lord's Prayer is closest to your heart. You may also follow along with the version printed below:

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Closing Hymn: "Spirit Song" UMH #347

Malachi Caldwell

Benediction

Pastor Mel

Departing Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide"

**Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC**

Note: Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship online possible, and to our congregants whose continued efforts help to keep our community safe from COVID19. We lift up deep gratitude for the collaboration involved in making this worship service happen for the glory of God and the delight of Creation!

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Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC**

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