

New Milford United Methodist Church

KEEP
GOING.

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2020 @ 9:30am

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
Lay Leaders: Lois Ciccarella, Courtney Karp, David Kullgren
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*

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 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.

Large Print Hymnals, Bible, 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

Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Sophia Gamber

[adapted from prayer by Laura Jaquith Bartlett posted at ministrymatters.com]

✝ **Opening Hymn #383** "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" [v.v. 1~4]

✝ **Call to Worship** [© enfleshed] Larry Tripp

The abiding love of God cradles the entire cosmos
All of eternity rests in the embrace of Sacred Wisdom
When our fears and limitations crowd our perception of what's possible
We remember, our help comes from God
In memory of the saints who leaned on Love in the most trying situations
And in solidarity with all who dare to practice hope in these days
Let us gather in the presence of God that we might be renewed in faith
Come, Holy Spirit, and make us brave in moral imagination

Message on the Chancel Steps Sophia Gamber

Anthem Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination [© enfleshed] Larry Tripp

Divine Wisdom, You invite us to live and perceive differently. Where the world rules aggressively with the rigid and narrow, You draw us into questions that purposely unravel and expand. May Your Spirit enable us to keep our hearts and our minds always open, malleable to Your love that stirs, surprises, and shakes-up. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading Psalm 121 (NRSV) Larry Tripp

✝ **Gospel Reading** John 3:1-17 Larry Tripp

The Word of God for all who choose to receive it! **Thanks be to God!**

Listening for God's Message Sophia Gamber

Hymn of Response #354 "I Surrender All" [vv. 1, 3, 5]

Prayer of the People & Lord's Prayer

Kay Jones

God of the covenant, You call us to be fruitful servants within creation, and to offer our lives as the foundation of Your commonwealth. We lay before You our needs and the desires of our hearts, that we may be transformed by their fulfillment. Grant, O God, that the prayers we offer may be your channel for new and abundant life not only hoped for, but worked for, through faithful word and deed.

[prayers of the people conclude with...]

In Christ we are set free from the burdens of proving ourselves to God or one another. Though we strive to grow in love and we hunger mightily for justice, we rest, too, in the grace of God.

Keeper of every moment, walk with us, we pray. Watcher in the night: stay with us, we pray. Spirit of new life: be in us, as we pray together saying...

[The 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. Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering Jerry Jones

[adapted from Way of the Cross--Way of Justice, by Leonardo Boff; and © enfleshed]

Offering of Tithes & Gifts musical selection by Tim Smith

✝ **Doxology #94**
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.

Prayer of Dedication [© enfleshed] Jerry Jones

GOING FORTH

✝ **Closing Hymn #521** "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Commission & Benediction [© enfleshed] Sophia Gamber

The Spirit sends us not with certainties
but with questions to provoke our journey of faith.
What if who you are is enough?
What if you, beloved, are cherished in your being and not only your doing?
What if being brave for the whole also means being gentle towards yourself?
God accompanies us with a love that upends forces of oppression, the ones that work from within and without. Let us go with faith, together. Amen.