

Assurance of Pardon [© 2012 Feasting on the Word]

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,
so God embraces all who return in true repentance.
In the name of Jesus you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus you are forgiven.

The Great Thanksgiving [please refer to pgs.13-14 UMC Hymnal]

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.*

Prayer After Receiving [© 2019 enfleshed]

GOING FORTH

✝ **Closing Hymn #369** "Blessed Assurance"

✝ **Commission, Benediction & Passing of the Peace** [© 2012 Feasting on the Word]

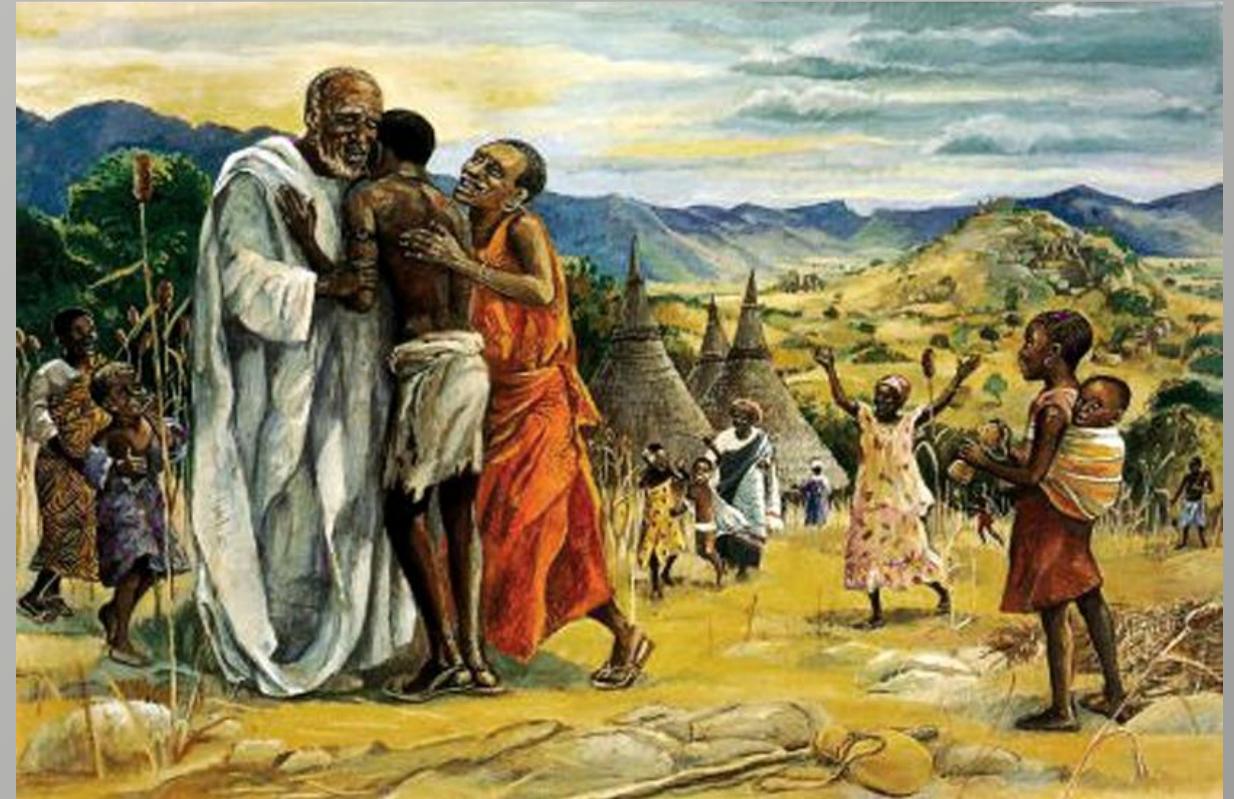
Go forth as ambassadors for Christ, in whom we have new life.
***The God of reconciliation bless you,
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you this day and forevermore.***

Postlude musical selection by Tim Smith

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

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, Heather Morin
Lay Leaders: Lois Ciccarelli, Jeannette Hicks, Courtney Karp, David Kullgren
Ministers: **All members of the New Milford UMC**

New Milford United Methodist Church



Sunday Worship Celebration

March 31, 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.**



* 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 #140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

† Call to Worship [© 2012 Feasting on the Word]

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Invocation [adapted from: The Tyranny of Vengeance by John van de Laar]

Anthem

Chris Prause

Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination [© 2012 Feasting on the Word]

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit

open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word,

that we may see the world through the mind of Christ

and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

† Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 [NRSV]

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Chris Prause

Chris Prause

Listening for God's Message

Pastor Nikki Edleman

Prayers of the People

Hymn of Response #357 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" (verses 1, 3, and 5)

Invitation to Offering [© 2019 enfolded]

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 [© 2019 enfolded]

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.]

Prayer of Confession [© 2012 Feasting on the Word]

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways.

Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.

*You gave us the earth for our home,
but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.*

You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions.

*You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law
and forsake your love.*

Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.

Draw our wandering hearts back to you

that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.

Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.