



NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Fifth Sunday of Eastertide | 05 . 02 . 2021 | 9:30am



All Are Welcome!

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!**

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Sophy

Centering Prayer

Pastor Mel

Responsive Call to Worship

Beloveds, let us love one another
because love is from God.
Anyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God.

No one has ever seen God
but when we strive to love
all of God's children and creatures
then God surely dwells within us
and God's love grows through us.

Hymn of Praise: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (UMH 121)*

Pastor Sophy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
 There's a kindness to God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is mercy for the sinner, and more graces for the good.
 There is healing with the Savior, there is healing in God's love.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind,
 and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we could rest upon God's word,
 and our lives would be illumined by the presence of the Lord.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of the Spirit. **14** And we have seen and do testify that the Creator has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. **15** God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. **16** So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. **17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. **19** We love because God first loved us. **20** Those who say, "I love God," and hate their siblings are liars; for those who do not love a sibling whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. **21** The commandment we have from Christ is this: those who love God must love their siblings also.

*A word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!***

Listening for God's Message

"God is Love"

Pastor Sophy

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response *What Wondrous Love is This (UMH 105)*

Corky Ballard

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

Prayers of the People

HOLY COMMUNION

A Note On Communion: Communion is a time when we celebrate and share in the presence of the risen Christ around His Table. We share an open Table— *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.

For congregants celebrating Holy Communion at home via Facebook and YouTube, please prepare a small amount of food and drink to have with you, which will be blessed during the service.

For congregants celebrating Holy Communion in the sanctuary, our communion elements will be consecrated during this portion of the service but we will partake of the elements together outside in the open air.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth...

...And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

...we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

...Through your Child Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Creator, now and forever. Amen

*If you are joining us at home,
offer the consecrated elements to yourself or whomever you are with,
saying as you do so: "This is the bread of Heaven, given for you."
"This is the cup of Salvation, poured out for you and for many."*

Prayer after Receiving

Your love has made us a new people;

As a people of love we will serve you with joy.

Your glory has filled our hearts.

Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

**Pastor Mel
and Pastor Sophy**

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>

Prayer of Dedication

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.

Closing Hymn: *I Could Sing of Your Love Forever***Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC**

Over the rivers and the sea Your river runs with love for me
and I will open up my heart and let the Healer set me free.
I happy to be in the truth and I will daily lift my hands
for I will always sing of when Your love came down.

I could sing of Your love forever.

Over the rivers and the sea Your river runs with love for me
and I will open up my heart and let the Healer set me free.
I happy to be in the truth and I will daily lift my hands
for I will always sing of when Your love came down.

I could sing of Your love forever.

Everywhere I go I'm singing;
Every breath of air I'm breathing;
Everywhere I look I'll sing of when Your love came down.

I could sing of Your love forever. (4x)

Over the rivers and the sea Your river runs with love for me
and I can open up my heart and let the Healer set me free.
I happy to be in the truth and I will daily lift my hands
for I will always sing of when Your love came down.

WE ARE SENT**Benediction****Pastor Sophy****Postlude: *Shalom*****Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC****Cover Image:** *The Shepherdess*, Paul A. Gatto. Oil on canvas, 2016.

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!