



# NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ascension Sunday | 05 . 16 . 2021 | 9:30am

## All are welcome here.



*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 Mel**

**Centering Prayer**

**Pastor Mel**

**Call to Worship**

Be with us, oh God, in this our time of worship.

**Open our minds to understand the scriptures,**

Open our hearts to sense your love in this world.

**Open our hands to share the good news with others.**

When sin weakens our hopefulness,

**we may discover the freedom of your forgiveness;**

when suffering and death overtake our lives,

**we may know the joy of the risen Christ;**

and when we feel abandoned,

**we may comprehend the power of the promised Spirit,**

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise** *Crown Him With Many Crowns, UMH #327*

Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne.

Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,

And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God, Before the worlds began,

And ye who tread where he hath trod, Crown him the Son of Man;

Who every grief hath known That wrings the human breast,

And takes and bears them for His own, That all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of life, Who triumphed over the grave,

And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save.

His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,

Who died eternal life to bring, And lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of Heaven, Enthroned in worlds above,

Crown him the King to whom is given The wondrous name of Love.

Crown him with many crowns, As thrones before him fall;

Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, For he is King of all.

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### **New Testament Lesson: Acts 1:1-11**

1:1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 1:2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 1:3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 1:4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 1:7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 1:9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 1:10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 1:11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### **Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44-53**

24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 24:46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 24:47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 24:48 You are witnesses of these things. 24:49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." 24:50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 24:51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 24:52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 24:53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

**Listening for God's Message** "Why Do You Stand Looking Upward to Heaven?" **Pastor Mel**

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**Hymn of Response** *Lord I Lift Your Name On High*

**Performed by CAYA  
of Simsbury UMC**

Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from Heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift Your name on high

### **Invitation to Offering**

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

### **Offertory Prayer**

**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** *Open The Eyes of My Heart***Performed by CAYA  
of Simsbury UMC**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up, shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy, we cry holy, holy, holy  
You are holy, holy, holy. I want to see you

Holy, holy, holy Holy, holy, holy  
You are holy, holy, holy. I want to see you

**Benediction****Pastor Sophy****Departing Hymn:** *Shalom To You***Performed by CAYA  
of Simsbury UMC**

**Cover Image:** Giotto, *The Ascension of Christ*, 1304-1306, Fresco, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy

**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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**Senior Pastor: Rev. Mel Kawakami**

**Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC**

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