



the open door ~ praise & worship service
...in a religion born in a barn, an open door goes without saying
05.02.18 • 7:00 pm

Welcome & Announcements

First Reading in Unison

"Psalm 22:25-31" [The Message by Eugene Peterson]

*²⁵⁻²⁶ Here in this great gathering for worship
I have discovered this praise-life.
And I'll do what I promised right here
in front of the God-worshippers.
Down-and-outers sit at God's table and eat their fill.
Everyone on the hunt for God is here, praising Him.
"Live it up, from head to toe.
Don't ever quit!"
²⁷⁻²⁸ From the four corners of the earth
people are coming to their senses,
are running back to God.
Long-lost families
are falling on their faces before Him.
God has taken charge;
from now on He has the last word.
²⁹ All the power-mongers are before Him—worshiping!
All the poor and powerless, too—worshiping!
Along with those who never got it together—worshiping!
³⁰⁻³¹ Our children and their children will get in on this
As the word is passed along
from parent to child.
Babies not yet conceived
will hear the good news—
that God does what he says.*

Song: "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

Song: "Here I Am to Worship"

✝ Bible Reading "John 15:1-8" [The Message by Eugene Peterson]

[adapted to contain inclusive language]

The Vine and the Branches

¹⁻³ "I am the Real Vine and my [God] is the Farmer.
[God] cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes.
And every branch that is grape-bearing
he prunes back so it will bear even more.
You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.
⁴ "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you.
In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself
but only by being joined to the vine,
you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.
⁵⁻⁸ "I am the Vine, you are the branches.

When you're joined with me and I with you,
the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant.
Separated, you can't produce a thing.
Anyone who separates from me is deadwood,
gathered up and thrown on the bonfire.
But if you make yourselves at home with me
and my words are at home in you,
you can be sure that whatever you ask
will be listened to and acted upon.
This is how my Father shows who he is—
when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

This is the word of God to the people of God

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." [2 Cor 3:17]

Listening for God's Message

Lois Ciccarelli

Prayers of the People

Presentation of the Offerings

Anthem "The King Is Among Us"

Song: "Arise"

Song: "I Am Free"

Benediction & Passing the Peace

new milford united methodist church • 68 danbury road • new milford, ct 06776
860-354-4596 • office@newmilfordumc.org • www.newmilfordumc.org
• pastor alex • open door band • marlene davis, tech team leader
• mike walsh & scott caldwell, lay leaders • **ministers:** the people of new milford umc