

Wesley's Prayer of Covenant ["A covenant with God". Methodist Church in Britain]

***I am no longer my own, but Yours.
Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You,
exalted for You, or brought low for You; let me be full,
let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to Your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.***

Hymn of Response #402 "LORD, I Want to Be a Christian" [v.v. 1, 2]

Invitation to Offering

Offering of Tithes and Gifts musical selection by Tim Smith

✚ **Doxology #95** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***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.***

Offertory Prayer

GOING FORTH

✚ **Closing Hymn #402** "LORD, I Want to Be a Christian" [v.v. 3, 4] I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

✚ **Commission, Benediction & Passing of the Peace** [by Sara D Lambert @ ministrymatters.com]

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Christ has set us free!

Follow Christ and know God's love!

Postlude musical selection by Tim Smith

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New Milford United Methodist Church



**Sunday Worship Celebration
June 26, 2016 @ 9am**

***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, 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.

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude musical selection by Tim Smith

Welcome & News

Prayer of Invocation [adapted from *lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com*]

† **Opening Hymn #500** "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" MORECRAMBE

† **Call to Worship** [adapted from liturgy by Nancy C. Townley posted at *ministrymatters.com*]

Following Jesus is difficult. So many things have laid claim to our lives.

We don't know if we can let go and truly follow Him.

LORD, search our hearts and speak to our spirits. Encourage us to freely follow You.

Help us to be dependable disciples,

joyfully proclaiming Your transforming power and love.

Hymn of Praise #396 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" [v.v. 1, 2] ANGEL'S STORY

Prayers of the People & LORD's Prayer [from Galatians 5 by Taylor Burton-Edwards, GBOD.org]

Holy Spirit,

let love shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let joy shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let peace shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let Your greatness of spirit shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let kindness shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let Your deep down goodness shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let faith shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let gentleness shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

let self-discipline shine through us. (voiced or silent intercessions)...

[prayers of the people concluding with 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.

Hymn of Praise #396

"O Jesus, I Have Promised" [v.v. 3, 4]

ANGEL'S STORY

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination [by St. Ignatius Loyola]

**Teach us, LORD, to serve You as You deserve,
 To give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds,
 To toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to seek for any reward
 Save that of knowing that we do Your will.**

Children's Message

"Facing Forward"

Pastor Alex

[adapted from *onthechancelsteps.wrodpress.com*]

† **Gospel Reading**

"Luke 9:51-62" [MSG]

⁵¹⁻⁵⁴ *When it came close to the time for his Ascension,*

he gathered up his courage and steeled himself for the journey to Jerusalem.

He sent messengers on ahead.

They came to a Samaritan village to make arrangements for his hospitality.

But when the Samaritans learned that his destination was Jerusalem,

they refused hospitality.

When the disciples James and John learned of it, they said, "Master, do you want us

to call a bolt of lightning down out of the sky and incinerate them?"

⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶ *Jesus turned on them: "Of course not!" And they traveled on to another village.*

⁵⁷ *On the road someone asked if he could go along. "I'll go with you, wherever," he said.*

⁵⁸ *Jesus was curt: "Are you ready to rough it?*

We're not staying in the best inns, you know."

Jesus said to another, "Follow me."

⁵⁹ *He said, "Certainly, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please.*

I have to make arrangements for my father's funeral."

⁶⁰ *Jesus refused. "First things first. Your business is life, not death.*

And life is urgent: Announce God's kingdom!"

⁶¹ *Then another said, "I'm ready to follow you, Master,*

but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home."

⁶² *Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks.*

You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day."

The Word of God to the faithful followers of Jesus! **Thanks be to God!**

Listening for God's Message

Pastor Alex