



NEW MILFORD
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost | 07 . 04 . 2021 | 9:30a



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 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.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Words to ponder

With each breath we take, our spirits breathe in God's Spirit. Our souls rejoice in the one who fully knows our hearts. God's grace sustains us, even in the midst of our weaknesses. As we exhale, let us reflect upon our relationships with our neighbors. The same Spirit that energizes us nourishes our neighbors. Pondering God's steadfast love, may we see the ways that God is calling us in this space and time.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Ed

Call to Worship

Leader: When winds tear into our vessels,

People: God's grace will be our guide.

Leader: When insecurities mount up within our souls,

People: God's strength will be our guide.

Leader: When hardships weaken our resolve,

People: God's mercy will be our guide.

Leader: When insults rip and slander stains,

People: God's courage will be our guide.

Leader: When vulnerability saps our faith,

People: God's presence will be our guide.

Opening Prayer

Divine Summoner, through your voice, we understand who you created us to be. Through your voice, we understand our calling. Through your persistent presence, we find resilience. May we contently embrace our vulnerabilities. May we boldly claim our pasts, and may we find our future with determination and grace. Amen.

Hymn of Praise:

"This is the Day the Lord Has Made" (2x)

UMH# 657

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Children's Message

Prayer of Confession

Holy Creator, we have refused to give our neighbors the honor they deserve.

We have rejected others, as Jesus was rejected before us.

Status drives us.

Gossip lures us.

Reputations gain more traction than the entirety of the person in front of us.

We choose chaos over kindness, and disconnection over spiritual bonds.

May our hearts repent, returning to your voice.

May our souls reconnect, returning to our neighbor.

May our minds renew, returning to the ones you created us to be.

May your grace abound. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn of Response

"Spirit of the Living God

UMH#393

WE HEAR THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16 (NRSV)

The Widow of Zarephath

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹ “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹² But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³ Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Gospel Lesson: *Mark 12:28-34* (NRSV)

The First Commandment

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reflecting on God’s Message

“Choices”

Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

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.*

Offering Prayer

Despite the sufferings and challenges on our journeys, your power transcends human weakness. We celebrate your generosity by sharing treasures, talents, and time along our way. No matter where we travel or which hardships we face, we sing your name in every corner of the earth. With our songs of praise, we share our gifts with your creation. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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Prayer after receiving

Great is God’s name.

And great is the table of Christ.

As we approach this meal,
we ponder the steadfast love of God.

We praise God’s name in each corner of the earth.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Sending Hymn

“Battle Hymn of the Republic V 1, 2 & 5

UMH#717

Benediction

Postlude

Pastor: Pastor Ed Dayton

Pianist: Mary Prause

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Note: Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship online and in person 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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Pastor Ed Dayton

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