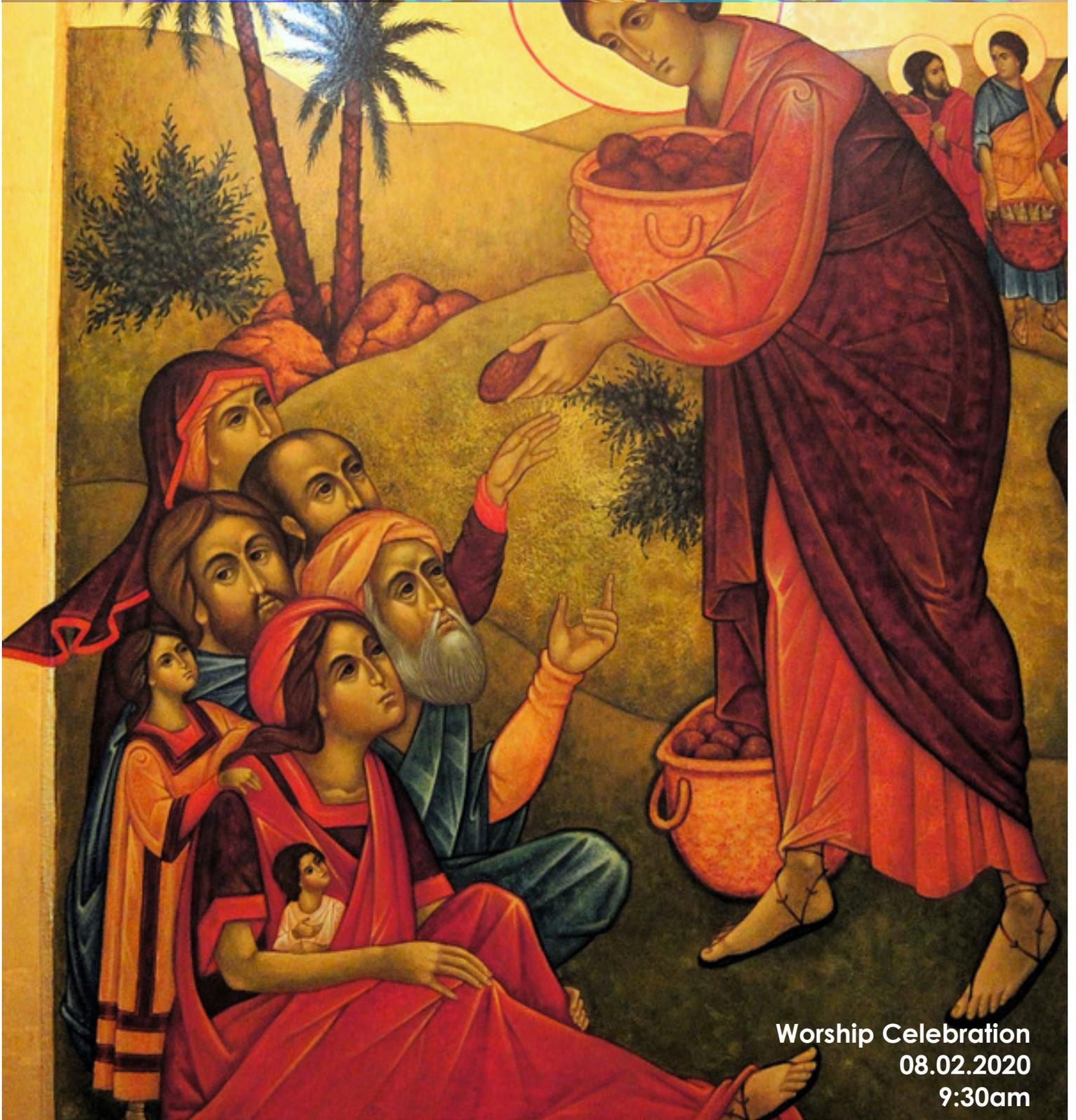




NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Worship Celebration
08.02.2020
9:30am

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 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.

Please invite your friends to join our worship services on Facebook & share our livestream.

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude

musical selection by Tim Smith, Music Director

Welcome & Announcements

The Rev. Alex da Silva Souto

† **Opening Hymn W&S #3149**

“A Place at the Table” [Shirley Erena Murray, Lori True]

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!

2. For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,
[Refrain]

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,
[Refrain]

4. For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
[Refrain]

5. For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,
[Refrain]

† **Call to Worship** [© enfleshed]

When our spirits are restless and unsettled,
when peace is nowhere to be found,
the grace of God wraps around us.

**We do not rush through periods of darkness,
but welcome their gifts that transform.**

In seasons of despair, truth comes to wrestle with us.

In silence, honesty voices its concerns.

From the unknowns that surround, possibilities emerge.

Courage calls us to linger patiently in discomfort.

In the light of day and the dark of night, God is with us.

Thanks be to God who upholds us in love.

Prayer of Invocation [© enfleshed]

*Holy Agitator, come and wrestle with our hearts. Push and pull on our self-understandings.
Challenge our perceptions that confine and confront our thinking that leads us to harm.
Meet us in the places deep within and let Your Spirit lead us in truth and healing. Amen.*

Hymn of Preparation #2176

“Make Me a Servant” [Kelly Willard (John 13-14-16)]

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let melt up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination [adapted from prayer by Meister Eckhart c.1260-c.1327]

***Glorious God, awaken in us a hunger for food to satisfy body, heart and mind...
“For not only bread, but all things necessary for sustenance in this life are given on loan to us
with others and because of others and for others, to others through us.” Amen.***

Hebrew Bible Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you
shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

✝ Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21 [NRSV]

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.
But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.
¹⁴ When he went ashore,
he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.
¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said,
“This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late;
send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”
¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”
¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”
¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”
¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.
Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven,
and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples,
and the disciples gave them to the crowds.
²⁰ And all ate and were filled;
and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.
²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

Listening for God's Message

Pastor Alex

Hymn of Response #629

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” [Omer Westendorf, Robert E. kreutz]

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1. As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
They know and heed his voice;
So when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
We follow and rejoice.

2. With joyful lips we sing to you
Our praise and gratitude,
That you should count us worthy, Lord,
To share this heav'nly food.

3. Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
Our oneness in the Lord?

4. The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell.

5. You give yourself to us, O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name
In truth and charity.

Call to Reconciliation [adapted from *lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com* (c) 2014 Thom M. Shuman]

God is not mean-spirited or vengeful.

God is gracious and merciful, always willing to listen to our prayers, and to hear our hearts.
Let us join in the prayer for forgiveness, saying...

 **Prayer of Confession** [adapted from *lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com* (c) 2014 Thom M. Shuman]

We think we do not have enough to end hunger in the world, Holy God.

Forgive us that we forget that,

by Your presence and power, very little can do so much.

We believe we are the only ones who carry heartache around with us.

Forgive us, Compassion's Heart, that we do not see, or embrace the despair of those around us.

We think we do not have the words with which to offer hope and healing to strangers.

Forgive us, Welcoming God, for not having the courage to run up to them with Your grace.

***We convince ourselves that we need to devote all our time, our energy, our resources,
our lives on keeping up with others.***

***Forgive us for not living that joyful, gracious life modeled for us by You, Jesus,
our Sibling, Teacher, and Liberator.***

[Moment of Silent Confession]

Assurance of Pardon [adapted from *lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com* (c) 2014 Thom M. Shuman]

Listen! Come to the One who covers us with compassion, who feeds us on grace and mercy.

What good news! Everyone who thirsts is given water;

everyone who hungers is fed; everyone Who sins is forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Invitation to Offering [© enfleshed] **Please** consider making an offering online <https://bit.ly/NMUMCGive>

If we have been convinced that love is the way,

that God provides what we need to live righteously,

and that no gift is too small - let us bring our offerings together.

In gratitude, and with faith,

we resist the lure of individualism and share what we have in community.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts



Musical Selection by Tim Smith

 **Prayer of Dedication** [© enfleshed]

Rose Ann Hastings - Aug 1

Lisa Lent - Aug 2

Athena Mazza - Aug 4

Daniella Mazza - Aug 5

Michaela Ferlow - Aug 7

Richard Tomascak - Aug 8

Jacqueline Gaynor - Aug 13

Travis Kullgren - Aug 14

Spirit of Transformation, come and bless these offerings to the work of Your love.

As forces of evil and empire work to kindle the fear in us, embolden our faith.

Make us persistent, determined, resolute in the way of life.

Trusting your hand to uphold us, we endeavor to struggle against injustice within and around. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation TFWS #2132

"You Who Are Thirsty" [Barbara Ross]

You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink from waters flowing.
 You who are hungry, come to the bread and eat of his holiness.
 You who are tired, find rest.
 You who are weak, find strength.
 You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink.
 He will freely feed all of them who are weak.
 He will quench the righteous thirst of all who humbly seek.

**HOLY 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 and 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. John Wesley, the founder of the people called Methodists, believed that it is possible to have a conversion experience during Communion, and so all are welcome at the Lord's Table.]

With joy, we proclaim...

Holy, Holy, Holy! God of Power and Grace.

Heaven and Earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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. Do not let us fall into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Partaking of the Elements**Prayer After Receiving****GOING FORTH****✠ Closing Hymn TFWS #2171**

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

[Prayer of St. Francis adapted by Sebastian Temple]

1. Make a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there's injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

♥ Benediction [© enfleshed]

God sends us into the world to wrestle with evil. Confronting injustice around us,

searching our own hearts for untruths and narrow perceptions,

we seek to transform and be transformed.

With love as our guide,

let us go bravely to live out our faith.

The Spirit leads us with peace.

Postlude

musical selection by Tim Smith, music director

Go now in peace to love God and one another.



Artwork: collage by Pastor Alex from "Loaves and Fish by Helen Maloney, Ireland; "Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, detail" by Patricia Reid.

Note: Joyful gratitude to all who have come together in making this worship service happen for the glory of God and the delight and liberation of Creation.

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