

✚ **Doxology** [IN UNISON]

“Praise God...”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Offering Prayer**

**GOING FORTH**

✚ **Closing Hymn #333** “I’m Goin’ a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”

**Commission, Benediction, and Passing the Peace**

May you remain on the path of light, filled to the brim with the goodness of our Creator; the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

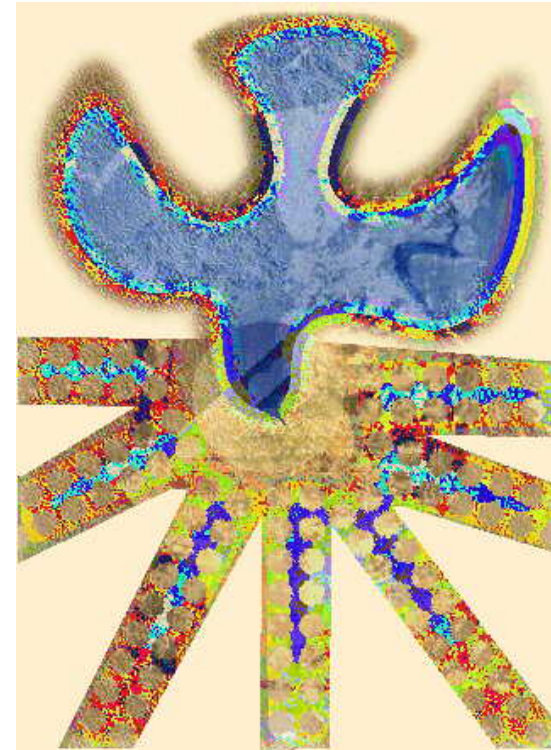
*We go now in peace to serve God as good Shepherds.*  
God’s peace will always be with you. AMEN.

**Postlude**

**Meetings & Opportunities this week:**

- TODAY ..... at 9:00 am Chapel in the Pines
- at 10:30 am Lay Led Devotions in the Sanctuary
- Mon., Aug. 17 ..... at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
- Tues., Aug. 18 ..... at 5:30 pm Worship Committee
- at 6:30 pm NM SPPRC
- Wed., Aug. 19 ..... at 5:00 pm Open Door Band Practice in Sanctuary
- at 6:00 pm Open Door Dinner in Fellowship Hall
- at 7:00 pm Open Door Worship Service in Sanctuary
- Thurs., Aug. 20 .... at 3:00 pm “Our Daily Bread” in Food Barn
- Fri. Aug. 21 ..... at 3:30 pm Loaves & Fishes, at New Milford Senior center
- Sun., Aug. 23 ..... at 9:00 am Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary
- Sun., Aug. 23 ..... at 10:45 am Church Conference in the Fellowship Hall

AA meetings in Fellowship Hall Monday - Friday at noon and Saturday at 9:30 p.m.



***The Service of Worship***

**New Milford United Methodist Church**

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776

www.newmilfordumc.org

860-354-4596

Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, Pastor

Sandy Lybe, Music Minister

Brinna Kolitz, Youth Leader

Emily Nixon, Open Door Band Leader

***Sunday, August 16, 2015 at 9:00***

*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.

✚ Means you are invited to stand if able.

**ENTRANCE & PRAISE**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & News** [Please refer to the bulletin insert for “Our Life in Community” news, and please share it with your family and friends.]

Pastor Alex

**Prayer of Invocation**

✚ **Call to Worship**

For cool mornings and rumbling afternoon storms,  
for amazing days and even more ordinary evenings,  
for deep friendships and shallow wading pools:

***we give thanks to God!***

For the laughing God who tickles us with joy,  
for the broken-hearted Love who joins in our struggles:

***we give thanks to God at all times!***

For the Bread of heaven who feeds us hope,  
for the Spirit of grace who teaches us to dance:

***we give thanks to God at all times and for everything!***

✠ Opening Hymn #164

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

THE CALL

Prayers of the People

*God of grace, who sent our Good Shepherd to seek out and save those who are lost,  
redeem what is broken, and heal all wounds;  
hear our prayers on behalf of those who suffer.*

*Receive, oh LORD, these petitions and thanksgivings with Your unending compassion.*

*[prayers of the people are lifted up to God...]*

We pray for those who are ill and in recovery:

We pray for those who are mourning the death of:

We pray for those who serve as first responders, public servants and in the armed forces:

We pray for those who are struggling:

We give You thanks for the miracles and joys bestowed upon:

*Sustainer God, visit Your people and pour out Your strength and courage upon us,  
that we may hurry to make You welcome not only in our concern for others,  
but by serving them generously and faithfully in Your name.*

*God in Community, Holy in One,*

*hear us as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples saying...*

*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 #500 “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” [V.V. 1, 4, 5]

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

*Holy Wisdom, You granted Solomon's request for an understanding mind  
and the knowledge to discern good from evil. Fill us with such understanding and  
knowledge that we may act as instruments of your loving desire for creation,  
working with you to transform our conceit into concern for others, our fear into love,  
our violence into peace, and our brokenness into wholeness. Amen.*

Hebrew Bible Reading

“Proverbs 9:1-6” [NRSV]

Tom Tibbatts

<sup>1</sup> *Wisdom has built her house,*

*she has hewn her seven pillars.*

<sup>2</sup> *She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.*

<sup>3</sup> *She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,*

<sup>4</sup> *“You that are simple, turn in here!”*

*To those without sense she says,*

<sup>5</sup> *“Come, eat of my bread*

*and drink of the wine I have mixed.*

<sup>6</sup> *Lay aside immaturity, [a] and live,*

*and walk in the way of insight.”*

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message

“Good Decision Maker”

Pastor Alex

*Congregation Sings “Jesus Loves Me” as children return to their pews.*

✠ Gospel Reading

“John 6:51-58” [NRSV]

Tom Tibbatts

<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Whoever eats of this bread will live forever;

and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying,

“How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

<sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them,

“Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,  
you have no life in you.

<sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life,

and I will raise them up on the last day;

<sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

<sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will  
live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your  
ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflecting on God’s Message

Pastor Alex

✠ Hymn of Response #433

“All Who Love and Serve Your City” [V.V. 1-3]

Offering of Tithes and Gifts