

GOING FORTH

✚ Closing Hymn #533

"We Shall Overcome" [v.v. 1-4]

MARTIN

✚ Commission, Benediction and Passing of the Peace

[adapted from Food For The Road: Life Lessons From The Lord's Table © 2005 John van de Laar]

Thank You, Loving God for sharing Your life with us
for sharing Your promise of eternity with us now.

***We go as emissaries of God's love and power to reconcile the divided,
to restore the fragmented, and to embrace the rejected in Jesus' Name.***

To tell the story of a Kin-dom where all are welcome and at one.
Where God's world finds its purpose in the eternal song of love.

***The unearned favor of Christ, the unending love of God
the unbroken friendship of the Holy Spirit be with us always. Amen.***

Postlude

musical selection by Tim Smith

cover image: collage by pastor alex from: Study for Prayer for Death in the Desert-Vedder, Elihu, 1836-1923;
Starry Night-Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890;
Angel of Truth Giving Freedom and Liberty to the Slave- Jules Vallée Guérin, 1866-1946

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Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, Pastor - mobile: 415.706.5397 | Music Director, Tim Smith

Brinna Kolitz, Youth Leader | Lay Leaders: Marilyn Fuller & Pat Tripp

Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC

New Milford United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Celebration

August 11, 2016 @ 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 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.
listening assistance devices are available at the entry of the sanctuary

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude musical selection by Tim Smith

Welcome & News

† **Opening Hymn #696** "America the Beautiful" [v.v. 1, 3] MATERNA

† **Gathering Prayer** Chris Prause
 [adapted from Food For The Road: Life Lessons From The Lord's Table © 2005 John van de Laar]

Giver of every good and undeserved blessing
 Once again, we unwrap with expectation the gift of this place;
 This house formed by human hands, but filled with God;
 This center of healing, love and shared life.
We thank You, Generous God, for the gift of this place
 Once again, we embrace with hope the gift of this time;
 These sacred seconds called from our brief lives, and filled with eternity;
 This momentary joining of journeys
We thank You, Generous God, for the gift of this time
 Once again, we join ourselves with You and with each other through our worship;
 Through these prayers and these praises;
 Through these lives and their love.
 And wrapped in this time and this place we make of ourselves a gift to You.
And may this offering fill Your heart with joy as we rejoice in You. Amen.

Hymn of Praise #431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth" WORLD PEACE

Prayers of the People & LORD's Prayer

It is before Your altar that we bow, Eternal Friend.
 And it is on this altar that we lay the burdens of our hearts.
 You have gifted us with companions to walk with us on the way.
 Loved ones and friends that we carry in our hearts.
 They encourage and strengthen us. They inspire and comfort us.
 They bring us security and joy.

[prayers of the people are lifted up]

**We pray that our love for them may be life-giving;
 and we long for You to bless them as they have blessed us.**

Thank You, Friend of Humanity, for the grace You bestow upon all creation.
 May our prayers, spoken and performed,
 be the gentle fragrance of life to each one we have lifted up in prayer.
 And as Jesus taught we say...

Anthem "Open Our Eyes" arr. Phill Kristinson words & music Bob Cull

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination [from lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu] Chris Prause

**Merciful God, Your desire to bring us into Your commonwealth is so great
 that You seek us in the places of our ignorance,
 and the forgotten corners where we hide in despair.
 Gather us into Your loving embrace, and pour upon us Your wise and Holy Spirit,
 so that we may become faithful servants in whom You rejoice
 with all the company of heaven. Amen.**

Gospel Reading "Luke 15:1-10" [NRSV] Chris Prause
 The Guiding Word of God to the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

Children's Message Pastor Alex
 [children are invited to Sunday School for the lesson "Joseph in Egypt", based on Genesis 39-2]

Listening for God's Message Pastor Alex

Hymn of Response #441 "What Does the LORD Require" SHARPTHORNE

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