



*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.

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins, service script, pew cushions, and Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary

You're encouraged to check-in at New Milford UMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE HEAR THE WORD

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Harlan Otter

Words to ponder

The Spirit dances in the water, waiting in baptism to join us in the fire of God's love.

Come to the waters.

Come to the Spirit.

Come to the journey of a lifetime—a journey through death to life everlasting.

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Patty Dayton

Sing praises to the Lord. Sing of God's glory and strength.

God calls us over the waters, and strengthens us for the journey.

Sing praises to Christ. Sing of Christ's healing and love.

The waters of our baptism cleanse us, renewing our spirits and nursing our wounds.

Sing praises to the Spirit. Sing of the Spirit's comfort and hope.

The flames of the Spirit are like a refiner's fire, purifying the soul to the glory of God.

***Opening Prayer**

Source of love and mercy, as we enter a new year in the life of this church, may our love for you be made known in our love for one another.

Help us leave old grievances and former argument behind, as we open our hearts to the possibilities that lie before us.

Guide our footsteps into the glory of your ways, that we may live as you created us to be—beloved children, crowned with glory and honor. May our worship reflect the greatness of our calling, and the honor of our heritage. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Prayer of Confession

Divine Spirit, descend upon us this day, as you descended upon Jesus on the day of his baptism. In the midst of our brokenness, we long to touch the healing of your Spirit, as you touch us with your love.

In the presence of evil all around us, we yearn to be protected by the holy fire of your sustaining Spirit.

As we remember, with gratitude, our baptism this day, remind us that we are a people of the water— a people made one and whole, through the Spirit made known in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:14-17

Patty Dayton

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come^[a] upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John^[b] laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Patty Dayton

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,^[a] ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

The Baptism of Jesus

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;^[c] with you I am well pleased."^[d]

Reflecting on God's Message

Pastor Ed

"This is my son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased"

The Baptismal Covenant IV

CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

L: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

ALL: I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

ALL: I do.

L: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

ALL: I do.

L: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

ALL: I will.

L: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

ALL: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit], Born of the Virgin Mary], suffered under Pontius Pilate], was crucified, died, and was buried]; He descended to the dead]. On the third day he rose again]; He ascended into heaven], Is seated at the right hand of the Father], And will come again to judge the living and the dead].

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

ALL: I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic* church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Interlude

Harlan Otter

Prayers of the People

*Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH # 95

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

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

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.
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.**

Benediction

Postlude

Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgist: Patty Dayton
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC



Skolfield, Raymond White, 1909-. Natural Power

1st Sunday after Epiphany | 1.09.2022 | 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 identity, age, race, religious background, economic status,
sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.***