



*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 GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude Harlan Otter

Words to ponder
May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasant to you,
Holy One, our rock and our redeemer.

Welcome and Announcements Ed Dayton

Introit Singing Choir

***Call to Worship** Martha McMahan

This day is holy to our God; do not mourn or weep.

The Spirit of the Holy One is upon us to bring good news to the poor.

This day is holy to our God; for the joy of the Holy One is our strength.

God sends us to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and justice to the oppressed.

On this day, may the scripture be fulfilled in our hearing:

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasant to you, Holy One, our rock and our redeemer.

***Opening Prayer**

Holy maker of stars and planets, Holy mender of broken dreams, Holy fountain of joyful news, we stand in awe of your glory.

We cry out with the psalmist in wonder, as your word is proclaimed in the silent song of the cosmos. We cry out with your faithful ones, as your presence is made known in the stories of your people at all times and places.

When the people returned from captivity in Babylon, you gave them your precepts to sustain them, as they rebuilt the city.

When Jesus read the words of your prophets to his hearers in the synagogue, he reminded them of your promise to release captives, to restore sight to the blind, and to free the oppressed. Today, you call us to be members of the body of Christ, your embodied Word made flesh, and to offer healing and wholeness wherever we go.

May our songs and our stories, our praise and our thanks, be pleasant to you this day, Holy One, our rock and redeemer.

***Hymn of Praise** "Gather us in" #2236

***Passing of the Peace of Christ** Pastor Ed

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession Martha McMahan

Rock and redeemer, you call us to remember that we are all members of one body in your Spirit.

Forgive us when we do not embody your love, when we speak harshly to one another, and when we judge others in our hearts.

Together, we drink of the one Spirit, and share in the same love that makes us one.

Reclaim us when we refuse to hear your word when spoken by those who do not look or sound as we expect.

Remind us that when one of your creatures suffers, all of creation suffers.

Renew us when we forget that we are one body, one family of our heavenly creator.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "In Christ There is No East or West" (v1,2&4) #548

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:1-2 Martha McMahan

The Good News of Deliverance

61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

Musical interlude

***Gospel Reading** Luke 4:14-21 Martha McMahan

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. **15** He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue
were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your
hearing."

Reflecting on God's Message "God is Love" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Offertory anthem Singing Choir

Invitation of the Offering musical selection by Harlan Otter

*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

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed
Holy Word, Holy Breath, Holy Maker of all, with gratitude for making us one body, we share our gifts
with one another and with the world. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*Sending Hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (v1,2&6) #57

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: Martha McMahon
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



*Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace, from Art in the Christian Tradition

3rd Sunday after Epiphany | 1.23.2022 | 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.*