



***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:

It is not what we do that saves us. It is the mercy and grace of God, poured out in love. The first shall be last, for God's love turns our expectations upside down.

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Ed

Introit "Word of God, Speak" (by Pete Kipley & Bart Millard) Bell Choir

***Call to Worship** Jerry Jones

Come and worship.

God is here.

Listen for God's word.

It is alive and active.

Draw near to the source of mercy.

The God of grace is with us.

***Opening Prayer**

There are days, O God, when we feel far from your presence.

We long for you, yet we feel no response, no closeness.

Give us the strength to cry out in pain, speaking our truth.

Give us the courage to complain, even when there is no response.

In the emptiness, we long for your presence.

We wait, O God, for you.

We know that you are the source of all mercy and grace.

We trust that you will help us in times of need. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** Take Up Thy Cross (v1,2&4) #415

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Forgiveness

Jerry Jones

Living God, your way can be hard.

How can we give up everything to follow you?

We feel so frustrated when we reach out to you and feel only silence.

We cling to what we own, fearing the future.

Free us from our desire to accumulate more and more.

Transform us into generous spirits, sharing your gifts with the world.

Work within us, that we may know your real presence, even when we feel so little.

We cannot do this alone.

We need your help. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response Whatever You Do (v1,2&5) #3128

***Gospel Reading** Mark 10:17-31 Jerry Jones

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. **19** You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" **20** He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." **21** Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money^[e] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." **22** When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" **24** And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is^[e] to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **26** They were greatly astounded and said to one another,^[e] "Then who can be saved?" **27** Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

28 Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." **29** Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,^[f] **30** who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. **31** But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

~~ Musical Interlude ~~

Reflecting on God's Message Linus Syndrome Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering musical selection by Harlan Otter

Offertory Anthem "The King of Who I Am" (by Mary McDonald) Chancel Choir

