

HOLY COMMUNION



[Communion is a time when we celebrate and share in the presence of the risen Christ around His Table. This is an open Table and all are invited. **You need not** be a member of this Church or any Church; **you need not** be baptized. **You need only desire a closer encounter with God.** John Wesley, the founder of the people called Methodists, believed that it is possible to have a conversion experience during Communion, and so all are welcome at the Lord's Table. We use unfermented juice of the grape at the service of Holy Communion. Gluten-free bread with separate cup is available as is the receiving of Communion at your seat - please speak with an usher.]

The Great Thanksgiving & 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread & Cup

GOING FORTH

✚ Closing Hymn #467 "Trust and Obey" TRUST AND OBEY

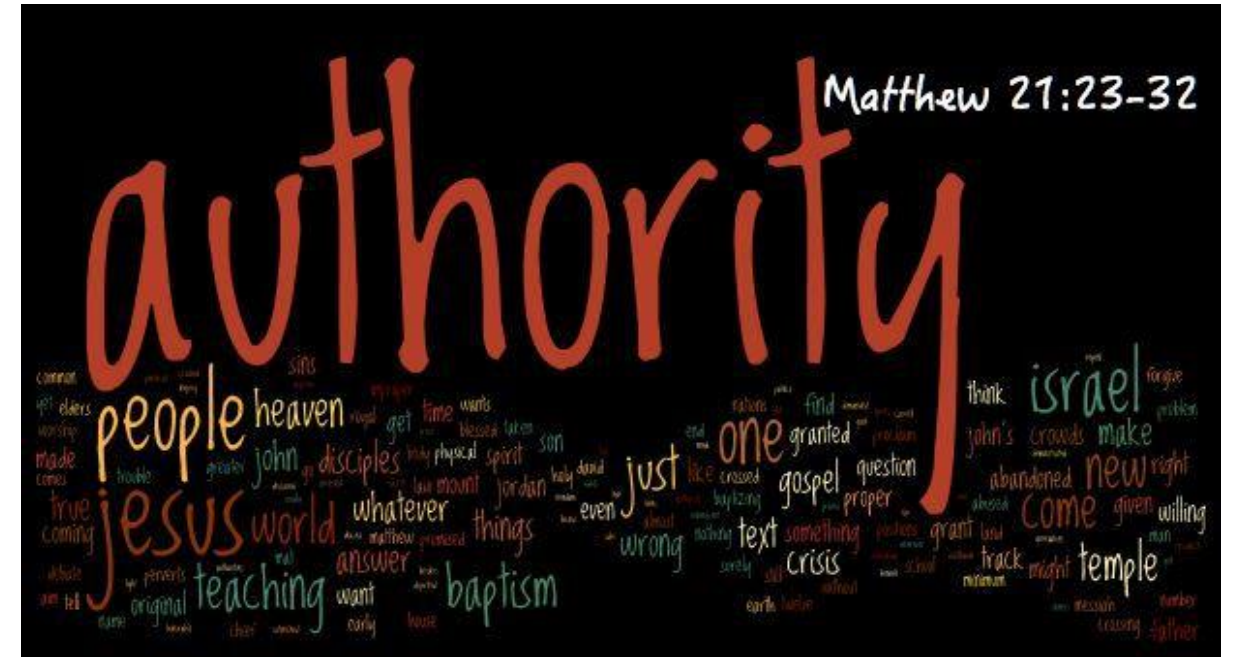
✚ Commission, Benediction and Passing of the Peace [adapted from Ministry Matters]

Go bravely and boldly into this world of confusion and pain. Bring God's healing words of love and forgiveness. Know the power of mercy and grace in your life, and use those wonderful gifts to serve God by serving the people. Go in peace. AMEN.

Postlude

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596
 Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, Pastor - mobile: 415.706.5397 | Music Director, Tim Smith
 Youth Leader, Jennifer Middleton, Kelly O'Rourke, Mike Walsh, Heahter Morin
 Lay Leaders: Tony Dossantos & Mike Walsh
 Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*

NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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.



Sunday Worship Celebration **October 01 | 2017 | 9:30am**

* 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 & LARGE PRINT BULLETINS please ask an usher

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude musical selection by Tim Smith

Welcome & News

✠ **Opening Hymn #157** "Jesus Shall Reign" DUKE STREET

✠ **Call to Worship** [adapted from Psalm 25:1-9 (The VOICE)] Tom Tibbatts

ALWAYS we will lift up our soul to You, Eternal One,

² **BECAUSE You are our God and we put our trust in You.**

Do not let us be humiliated.

³ **CERTAINLY none of the people who rely on You will be shamed.**

⁴ DEMONSTRATE Your ways, O Eternal One.

Teach us to understand so I can follow.

⁵ EASE us down *the path of Your truth.*

FEED us Your word because You are the True God who has saved us.

We wait all day long, *hoping, trusting in You.*

⁶ **GRACIOUS Eternal One, remember Your compassion;**

rekindle Your concern and love,

which have always been part of Your actions toward those who are Yours.

⁷ Do not HOLD against us the sins we committed when we were young in faith;

instead, deal with us according to Your mercy and love.

Then Your goodness may be *demonstrated in all the world,* Eternal One.

⁸ **IMMENSELY good and honorable is the Eternal;**

that's why God teaches the way to the ones who have stray.

⁹ **With JUSTICE, God directs the humble in all that is right,
and God shows them The Way.**

Prayer of Invocation Pastor Alex

Anthem "Sing to the Father" Chancel choir

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination [adapted from Ministry Matters] Tom Tibbatts

Open our hearts this morning, O Lord. Help us to listen closely to the words of encouragement that you offer to us. Let us internalize those words so that they become the very fiber of our being and frame our thoughts and actions. Make us mindful of all those this day who lives in places of fear and greed, of oppression and hate, of poverty and hopelessness. Enable us to be those who will work for peace and hope for all your people. We lift so many people in our prayers this morning. Many of our loved ones face situations of ill health and mourning, of loneliness and fear, and of alienation and sorrow. Bring them comfort and peace. Our hearts cry out for people all around our world who are endangered by

systems of hatred and fear. Touch the hearts of these dear ones, O Lord. Make us those who bring messages and actions of hope and faith. Give us courage and nourish our spirits with this worldwide communion of bread and wine. Strengthen us to truly be your witnesses this day and all our days. **AMEN.**

✠ **Gospel Reading** "Matthew 21:23-32" [MSG] Tom Tibbatts

The Word of God to the People of God! Thanks be to God!

Message on the Chancel Steps Pastor Alex

Listening for God's Message Philippians 2:1-11 (VOICE) 12-13 (MSG) Pastor Alex

Hymn of Response #382 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" BEGINNINGS

Prayer of Confessions [adapted from Ministry Matters]

God of patience, your people grow weary. We complain and question.

We put you to the test. Our mouths say yes, but our deeds say no.

When we wander off your path, when we fail to follow through on our good

intentions, when we give our attention to trivial things; gently call us back to you.

Empty our hearts of anger and pride. Empty our souls of greed and selfishness.

Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and mistrust.

As you poured out your very self through your beloved Son,

pour your Spirit into our hearts today. Forgive us our wrongdoing.

Reclaim us with your love.

[Moment of Silent Confession]

Words of Assurance [Ministry Matters]

Hear the good news, friends! While we wandered in fear, God was with us, offering us hope and courage. God is with you this day, this very minute, lifting you from despair to hope. This is the good news! God is always with us. **AMEN.**

Offering of Tithes and Gifts musical selection by Tim Smith

✠ **Doxology #94** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,

whose power up lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offertory Prayer [adapted from...]

God of abundance, you fill us with good things;

you satisfy our thirst; you meet our every need.

From your rock, our blessings flow.

Accept what we give in return: our hearts, our hands, our gifts, our love.

Use them to answer the cries of a world in need. **Amen.**