



*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 God's thoughts become our thoughts.

May Jesus' way become our way.

And may the Spirit be our guide until love reigns throughout the earth.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Love Has Come"

by Ken Bible

Singing Choir

***Call to Worship**

Bring your longing, bring your hope.

God is with us here.

Lay down your fears, lay aside your doubts.

Faith has called us here.

Pour out your soul with prayer and praise.

We come to worship God.

***Opening Prayer**

Come to us in silence and word, O God.

Speak to our hearts, that we may hear and respond.

Soothe our souls, that we may rest and renew. Strengthen our spirits, that we may grow in faith and courage.

In Christ's name, we pray.

Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

#2223

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

***New Member Celebration**

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession

Loving Creator, you call us to rejoice in your promise of the birth that is to come, but we are afraid.

You invite us into a world where justice and righteousness prevail, but we turn away in fear.

We long for an easy path into your promised world, but you warn us that there is no easy way.

Birth new life within us, Holy Midwife, that we may abide in your perfect love — the love that casts out fear.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

#393

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 4:12-16

Martha McMahan

12 Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Jesus the Great High Priest

14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested^[a] as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Mark 12:28-34

Martha McMahan

The First Commandment

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" **29** Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; **30** you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' **31** The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." **32** Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; **33** and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." **34** When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reflecting on God's Message "In Alaska, "It is illegal to push a live moose out of a moving airplane" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Offertory anthem

"The Lord Is My Light"
by Lloyd Pfautsch

Singing Choir

***Doxology**

"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

UMH # 95

Offering Prayer

God of overflowing abundance, you fill the empty jars of our lives with life-giving grain to nourish our bodies; you fill the dried out vessels of our spirit with light-giving oil to illumine our path.

Receive these gifts, in thanksgiving and praise for your love and mercy, that others may know your abundant grace.

Amen.

Pastor Ed

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

" Amazing Grace" (v1-3 & 6)

#378

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.

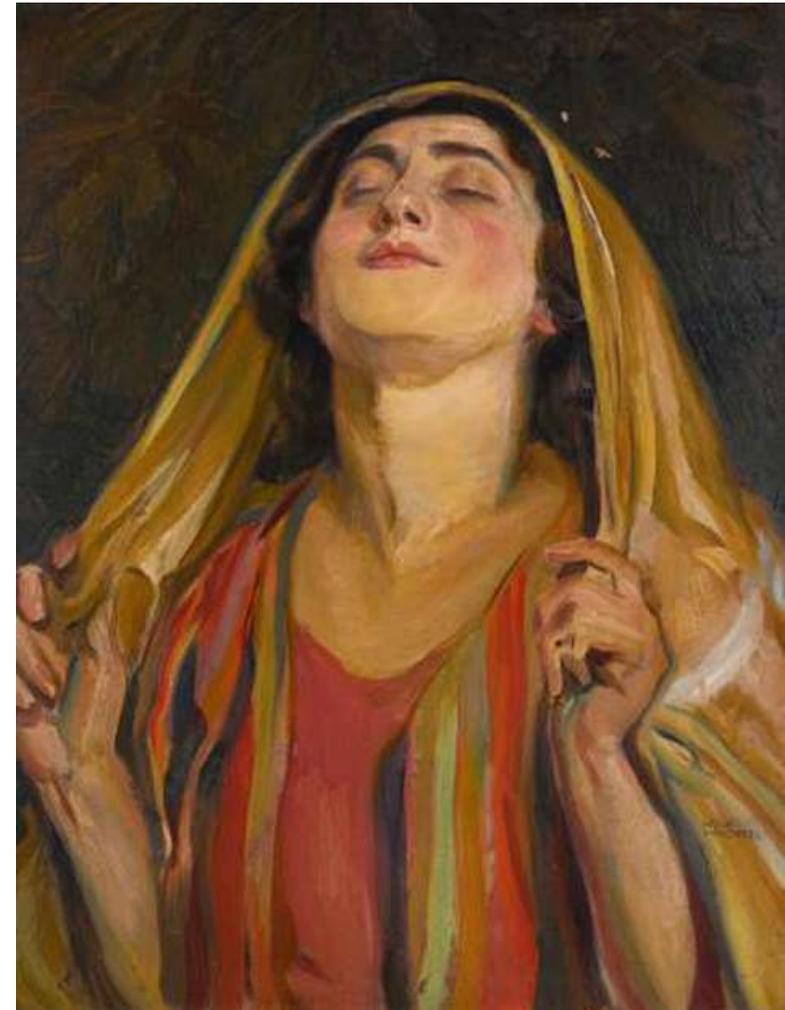
Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Harlan Otter



Wachtel, Wilhelm, 1875-1942. Hannah at Prayer, from Art in the Christian Tradition

25th Sunday After Pentecost | 11.14.2021 | 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.***

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Liturgist - Martha McMahan

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*