



***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:

A righteous branch has sprung forth to bring goodness and justice to our world.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Gentle Shepherd"
by Gloria & William Gaither

Bell Choir

Lighting of The Advent Wreath

The O'Rourke Family

***Call to Worship**

Amanda Thomas

Our promised salvation is at hand.

A righteous branch has sprung forth, bringing hope to our world.

Our eyes have beheld the goodness and mercy of the Lord.

A Son has been given to us, bringing justice and virtue to our land.

Our hearts have felt the stirrings of God's Presence.

The Spirit of truth is here to heal us, teaching transgressors God's ways.

Let us worship the God of our salvation.

***Opening Prayer**

Righteous One, your glory shines brighter than the sun.

We remember your compassion and your faithful love, as we come to worship this day.

Lift up our souls to meet the challenges we face, as we seek to bear the fruit of your salvation.

May your righteous branch grow within our hearts, that our lives may abound in mercy and steadfast love.

And may we be found ready and waiting when the one drawing near comes with power and glory to bring us to you. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" (v1-4)

#211

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, your promises of old strengthen us during these dark times.

We yearn to learn to read the signs of your coming:

in the sun, moon, and stars;

in the roaring of the seas and the waves;

and in the tumult of our world.

Yet, we have seen it all before and nothing seems to change.

We long to live with courage in an age where wars are fought for peace and freedoms are stripped in the name of liberty.

Grant us the wisdom that comes from waiting, and teach us the patience that leads to godliness as our savior draws near. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"Come Now O Prince Of Peace"

#2232

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Amanda Thomas

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 21:25-36

Amanda Thomas

The Coming of the Son of Man

25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. **26** People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27** Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. **28** Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; **30** as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. **31** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. **32** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. **33** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Exhortation to Watch

34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, **35** like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. **36** Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Reflecting on God's Message "A Whole New World" Pastor Ed
Prayers of the People

Offertory anthem "Away in a Manger" Singing Choir
by James R. Murray

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
How can we thank you enough, Blessed One, for all you have given us.
May we increase and enrich in love, even as you increase and enrich the gifts we bring before you this day.
Send them forth into your world, as signs of the bounty of Christ coming into the world.
In your precious name, we pray. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

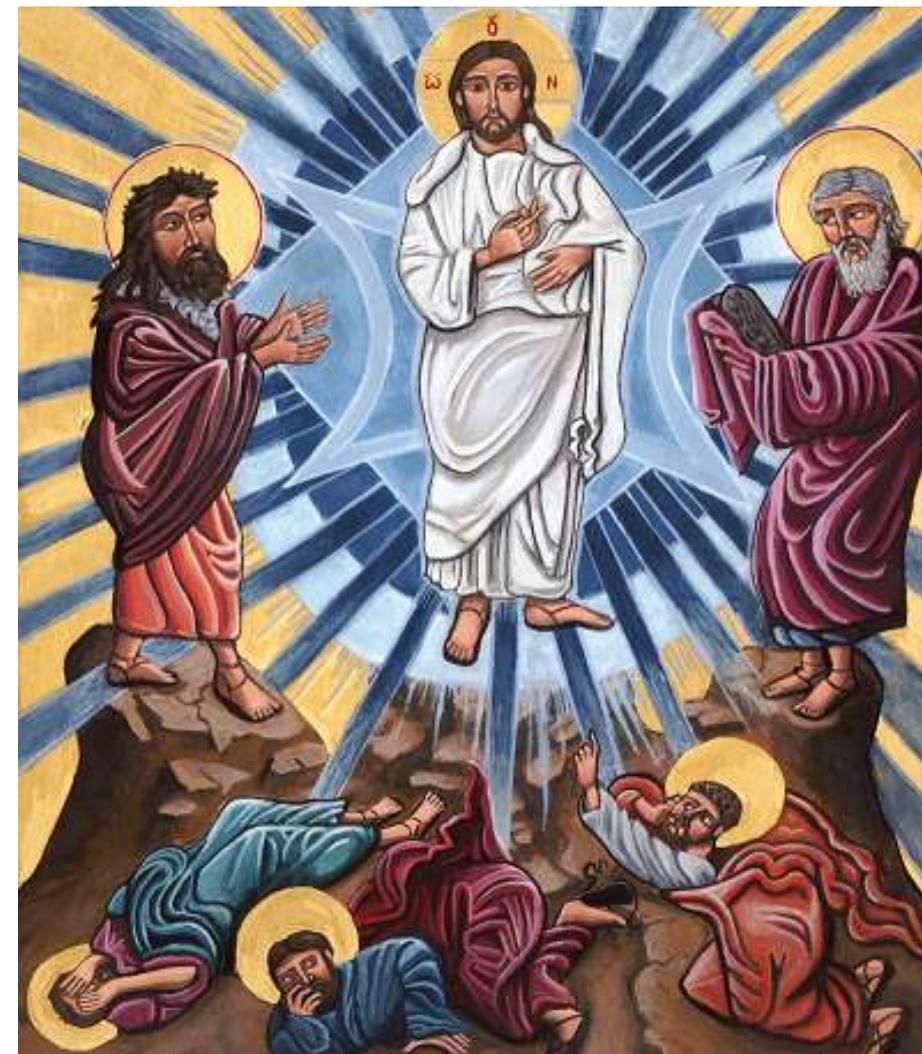
*Sending Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" #213

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
68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596
Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter
Liturgist - Amanda Thomas
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



*Latimore, Kelly. Transfiguration, from Art in the Christian Tradition

1st Sunday of Advent | 11.28.2021 | 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.