

Testimony of Gratitude

✠ Hymn of Response #399

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

MESSIAH

Invitation to Offering [adapted from prayer: "Admitting My Gifts" by Sacredise]

I'm not really sure I want to admit it, God, but I am a person with gifts...

*So, thank You, God, for making me a gifted person,
and thank you that my gifts can make a difference,
can, in some small way, help
to make Your dream for my world a reality. Amen.*

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

musical selection by Zoe Vandermeer

✠ Doxology TFWS #2036

"Give Thanks"

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son, (2x)
And now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." (2x) Give thanks! (2x)*

Offertory Prayer [adapted from "Plenty" by John van de Laar]

GOING FORTH

✠ **Closing Hymn #3010** "Sing of the LORD's Goodness" [v.v. 1, 4] THE LORD'S GOODNESS

Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom, come to Him and bless His name.

Mercy He has shown us, His love is forever, faithful to the end of days.

*[Refrain] Come then, all you nations, sing of your LORD's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.*

Ring out the Lord's glory, praise Him with your music, worship Him and bless His name.

*Praise Him with your singing, praise Him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp; praise Him with the cymbals,
praise Him with your dancing, praise God till the end of days. [Refrain]*

Commission, Benediction & Passing of the Peace [adapted from: benediction by John van de Laar]

*We thank You, Jesus, for re-igniting the flame of hope within us,
for filling our hearts with gratitude and evicting the fear of scarcity,
and for giving us a new vision of Your glory. Amen.*

Go now, as light-bearers to a world in darkness,

Go now, as hope-carriers to a world in despair;

We go in the name of Christ, in the love of God and in the power of the Spirit. **Amen.**

Postlude

"O'Carolan's Concerto"

Zoe Vandermeer

New Milford United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 9:30am

gratitude unlocks
the fullness of
LIFE

it turns what we have into
enough & more!

it turns

denial into acceptance

chaos into clarity

problems into gifts

failures into success

the unexpected into perfect timing

& mistakes into important events.

gratitude makes

sense of our past... brings peace
for today & creates a vision
for tomorrow.

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Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, Pastor | Zoe Vandermeer, Interim Music Director
Brinna Kolitz, Youth Leader | Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC

*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.*

*** 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.

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude “Irish Medley” by O’Carolan Zoe Vandermeer

Welcome & News [Please refer to the bulletin insert for “Our Life in Community” news]

† **Opening Hymn #694** “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” [v.v. 1, 2] ST. G. WINDSOR

† **Call to Worship** [adapted from writing by my beloved friend Joan Javier-Duval]

Come and enter into this sacred space of abundance and spirit growing.

Holding each other's joys and sorrows of today.

Holding each other's hopes and dreams for tomorrow.

Welcome to our celebration of a blessed life in Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Invocation Pastor Alex & Thelma Neufeld

מִוֹדָה אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךָ, מֶלֶךְ חַי וְקַיִם,
שֶׁהַחַיִּים בֵּי נַשְׁמָתִי בְּחַמְלָה, רַבָּה אֲמוּנָתְךָ.

***I gratefully thank You, O living and eternal King,
for You have returned my soul within me, with compassion.
Abundant is Your Faithfulness.***

“Savor And Share Your Blessings” by Thelma Neufeld, September 16, 2014

*I thank you Lord that I can see
The beauty of a flowering tree
The smile upon a baby's face
A runner when he wins a race*

*I thank you Lord that I can hear
The choir singing loud and clear
The songs of the birds in the wild
The joy and laughter of a child*

I thank you Lord that I can smell

*The fragrant flowers in the dell
The aroma of a fresh baked cake
The sweet perfume worn by my date*

*Thank you Lord for taste and flavor
Delicious food I can savor
From tasty cake to fresh warm bread
Roast meat, veggies and jelly spread*

*I thank you Lord that I can feel
The plush carpet under my heel
The silk soft fur of a kitten
The welcome warmth of a mitten*

*I'm grateful for simple blessings
For there are those without these things
I'll use my senses to love and care
Giving hope to those everywhere*

Anthem “Harvest of Praise” by Nolan and Patterson Zoe Vandermeer

Prayers of the People & LORD’s Prayer

[prayers of the people are lifted up...]

***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.***

Hymn #130 “God Will Take Care of You” MARTIN

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

† **Gospel Reading** “Matthew 6:25-33” [NRSV]

The Word of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Children’s Message Pastor Alex

[Congregation Sings “Jesus Loves Me” as children proceed to Sunday School.]

Reflecting on God’s Message “Gratitude Campaign - Part IV” Pastor Alex