



*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 child cries out. New life begins, hope is born, and light shines forth for all to see.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Singing Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Marlene Davis & Pastor Ed

***Call to Worship**

Chuck Samson

Rejoice and sing.

A child is born!

Sing songs of praise.

For the Prince of Peace is in our midst.

Rejoice and sing.

Christ is born! Hallelujah. Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, be born in our hearts this night.

Shine your light into the darkness of our world, that all the earth might know your glorious presence

and that all people might find hope in your love and grace.

In your glorious name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Angels we have heard on high”

#238

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession

Chuck Samson

When the shadows of sin and sorrow surround us, shine on us with the light of your comfort and your grace.

When the despair of the world overwhelms us, lift us with your promise of hope.

When we forget the good news of your presence, cry out with your message of love, that we might hear and remember anew.

Christ is born.

Christ is with us.

We are not alone.

In your beloved name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“Away in a manger”

#217

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Chuck Samson

² ^[a] The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

Chuck Samson

The Birth of Jesus

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was

the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to

be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called

Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with

Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for

her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid

him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an

angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, ¹² the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, ¹⁴ praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”¹⁵

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflecting on God’s Message “Look up, look around, and look beyond” Pastor Ed
Prayers of the People
Invitation of the Offering musical selection by Harlan Otter
Offertory Anthem Singing Choir

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed
Beautiful Savior, we are so grateful for your birth so many years ago, and we are so joyful to have your presence in our lives this night.
In gratitude, we offer our gifts, however humble they might be.
Transform our gifts with your glory and grace, that our gifts might become grace and love, and light and hope,
for a world in need of you. Amen

***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

COMMUNION

*SEE INSERT

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “ Silent Night” #239
Benediction
Postlude Harlan Otter



*Lippi, Filippo, approximately 1406-1469. Adoration of the Child in the Forest

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
DECEMBER 24TH, 2021 AT 11PM.

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.