



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 [please refer to UMH pages 13-14]

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 of the Bread & Cup

musical selection by Tim Smith

Prayer after Receiving

"Blessing for Waking" from *Circle of Grace* by Jan Richardson

GOING FORTH

✦ **Closing Hymn #706**

"Soon and Very Soon"

VERY SOON

✦ **Commission, Benediction and Passing of the Peace**

Go now into this cold world, warmed by the very presence of God.

Go in safety, for there is no place that God has not already been.

We go in joy, for Jesus has already gone ahead of us, and we gladly follow.

We go in confidence, for we are kept in God's care.

Postlude

musical selection by Tim Smith

[when not otherwise noted this liturgy is adapted from "Living the Dream: An Advent Journey through Isaiah & Matthew" by John van de Laar at Sacredise.com]

cover image: Contemporary Justice and Child-Symeon Shimin, 1902-

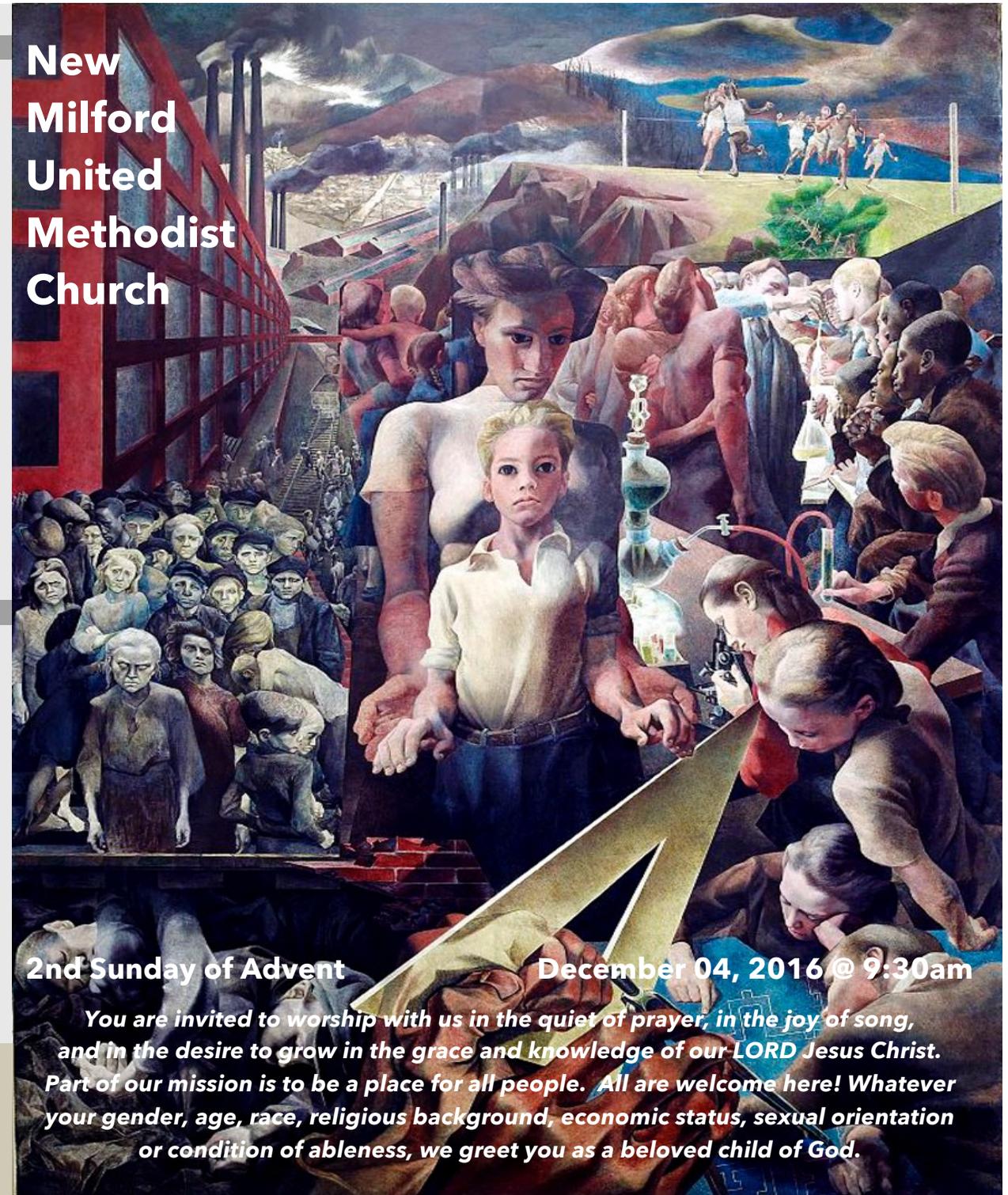
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Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, Pastor - mobile: 415.706.5397 | Music Director, Tim Smith

Youth Leader, Brinna Kolitz | Lay Leaders: Marilyn Fuller & Pat Tripp

Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC

New Milford United Methodist Church



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 04, 2016 @ 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, 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.
listening assistance devices are available at the entry of the sanctuary

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude musical selection by Tim Smith

Welcome & News

† **Opening Hymn #218** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" [v. 1, 2] CAROL

† **Gathering and Celebration** Pastor Alex
 [You are invited to hold a moment of silence during the playing
 of the melody of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"]

It's a cold world out there, God... chilled by our lack of compassion,
 and by our hunger for personal satisfaction, comfort and wealth;
 chilled by our fear of those who are different from us,
 and by our longing always to be seen to be right;
 chilled by our determination to get back at those who have hurt us,
 and by our violent rejection of forgiveness.

We gather because we need our hearts to be warmed.

It's a dark world out there, God... darkened by our despair and hopelessness;
 darkened by our cynicism and negativity; darkened by our lethargy and apathy.

We gather because we need our souls to be enlightened.

We need a new dream, O God, bright enough to fill our vision with light,
 colourful enough to fill our hearts with joy, compelling enough to energise our bodies,
 and real enough to set our lives in fire!

O Come, Emmanuel!

Liberate Your people from despair,

Fill us with hope and purpose,

And teach us to believe and live Your dream of shalom! Amen.

Hymn of Praise #218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" [v. 3, 3*, 4] CAROL

3*. *But with the woes of sin and strife
 The world has suffered long;
 Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
 Two thousand years of wrong;*

*And man, at war with man, hears not
 The love song which they bring;
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
 And hear the angels sing!*

Anthem "Come Jesus, Holy Son of God" Handel Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination Brinna Kolitz

**As we fill this place of worship with living, evergreen leaves,
 we remember, O God, that Your life can never be extinguished,
 and Your cosmic dream of peace, justice and love will never be denied.
 We praise You, O God, for giving us a vision of a universe that is whole and united,
 and for empowering us by Your spirit to live this dream even now! Amen!**

Bible Reading "Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19" Brinna Kolitz
 [mashup of MSG, CEB; "Opening to You: Zen-Inspired translation of the Psalms" by Norman Fisher]

Listening for God's Message Rabbi Ari Rosenberg, Temple Sholom, New Milford

Hymn of Response #210 "Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)" TAULÈ

Offering of Tithes and Gifts musical selection by Tim Smith

Welcome of New Members

† **Doxology #94** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**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 uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Offertory Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

*In commemoration of Jesus' Birth, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas
 and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that
 language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is
 always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the
 candle of hope and the candle of peace, and dare to express our longing for healing, and the
 well-being of all creation. [Second candle is lit]*