

O Radiant Dawn of the East, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Give light to those who sit in darkness, bring life to those who have found comfort in the shadow of death. Come, Lord Jesus.

God, we are bound to make mistakes, but thankfully because of Your grace we not bound to our mistakes forever. We agree we need You to liberate us time and time again. For all the times we've missed You being in front of us or behind us, forgive us.

O King of the Gentiles, the One in whom we desire, the cornerstone that brings all together, come and deliver us, the ones whom you formed from dust and breath.

O Immanuel, our sovereign mediator, heart of Your people, savior of all, come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, Lord Jesus.

[Time of Reflection: *be encouraged to lift up your silent prayers of confession*]

Graceful God, ever faithful to Your promises, the earth actively hopes to know Your presence here, now, and always. Bless our minds to recognize You. Bless our hearts to accept You. Bless our arms to receive You. *Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

By God's grace you are forgiven. *By God's grace you are forgiven. Thanks be to God!*

Hymn of Preparation #202

"People, Look East" [v.v. 1, 3]

BESANÇON

The Great Thanksgiving

GOING FORTH

✠ Closing Hymn #206

"I want to Walk as a Child of the Light" [v.v. 1, 3]

HOUSTON

Commission, Benediction & Passing of the Peace

Go now and prepare the way for the LORD.

Share in the gospel of God's grace; Proclaim salvation and the forgiveness of sins;

Make straight paths for justice and mercy.

And may God complete the good work begun in you;

May Christ Jesus rejoice in your faith and compassion;

and may the Holy Spirit fill your love with wisdom,

and produce in you a harvest of righteousness.

We go in peace to prepare the way and wait in love. Amen.

Postlude

"Trio in F" by Clerambault

Zoe Vandermeer

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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

New Milford United Methodist Church

AWAITING
REPLY

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 06, 2015 at 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.**

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude

"Suite du premier ton" by Clerambault (1676 - 1649) Zoe Vandermeer

Welcome & News

[Please refer to the bulletin insert for "Our Life in Community" news, and do share it with your family and friends.]

✠ Opening Hymn #211

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [v.v. 5-6]

VENI EMMANUEL

✠ Call to Worship

Larry Tripp

A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD!"

Make God's paths straight.

Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain will be leveled.
The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed,
and all will see the salvation of God.
Light is returning. The dawn is breaking.
The Lord is coming!

Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Alex

[excerpt from "The Ninth Duino Elegy", by Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Stephen Mitchell]

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

Anthem

"Come, Emmanuel" by Twila Paris

Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Sung Prayer for Illumination #196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" [v. 1] HYFRYDOL

✠ **Gospel Reading**

"Malachi 3:1-4" [NRSV]

Children's Message "Prepare the Way" [adapted from concept by Claire Benton-Evans] Pastor Alex
[All children are invited to proceed to Sunday School
for lessons on Luke 1:26-38 "A visit from Angel Gabriel.]"

Sung Response #211

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [v. 7]

VENI EMMANUEL

Hebrew Bible Reading

"Malachi 3:1-4" [NRSV]

Larry Tripp

Reflecting on God's Message "When Praying Move Your Feet" (African Proverb) Pastor Alex

Invitation to Offering [adapted "Already Given", Thomas Merton, edited by Brother Patrick]

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

"Duo in Dm" by Clerambault

Zoe Vandermeer

✠ **Doxology #94**

*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!*

Offering Prayer

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]*

Call to Reconciliation, Responsive Prayers for Forgiveness

[video: An Advent confession: "Opening Ourselves To Advent", by TWOTP]

The Lamb of God comes with pardon, giving hope to all creation. In hope and confidence, then, as Your children, God, we arrive at Advent season to wait with honest longings in our hearts. It is with true hope that we pray:

God of all creation, we wait for the fullness of You, for the intimacy of You. Forgive us, God, for the times we have lived against You, for acting or not acting, in ignorance, and spoiling the abundance You give.

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading all creation, to balance all things with strength and gentleness, come now and teach us the way to salvation. Come, Lord Jesus.

God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. Forgive us for missing You *everywhere*, for not setting aside time to rest in You, for treating Your name like any other.

O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared as an eternal flame to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai, extend Your hand to us. Come, Lord Jesus.

God, we are at one another's throats. If we can divide, we will, time and again. Forgive our part in injustice. Who are we to judge who is in the right? What's good and bad? Who are we to judge sin and righteousness? Who are we to place ourselves in Your seat of judgment? Forgive us for rejecting Your prophets and messengers of peace, forgive us for not seeing that Your way is for us, for fighting against ourselves, our brothers and sisters, and against You and Your creation.

O Root of Jesse, sprouting as a sign for one and all, Your presence humbles the rulers of earth, everyone will honor You. Bring us to You. Come soon Lord Jesus.

O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel, You open what no person can close. You close what no man can open. You have become the gateway, calling through our abandoned souls. Come and lead us through You, Jesus.

God, there are days we survive only by diving deep inside ourselves. We wince at Your glory and survive by our vices. Forgive us for worshipping passing pleasures. For lying, wasting, using and wanting more and more. [continues]