

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



Milton had a quirky, non-verbal way of disagreeing with other church members.

## New Milford United Methodist Church

# Rejoice!

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 13, 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.

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | [www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org) | 860-354-4596

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

## ENTRANCE & PRAISE

**Prelude** "The Gift of Love" arr. by John Carter 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 #388** "O Come and Dwell in Me" ST. MICHAEL

✠ **Call to Worship** Larry Tripp

God is our salvation, our strength and our power,

**the one in whom we trust and to whom we give thanks.**

As the sun-dried land rejoices when refreshed by rain, so we rejoice

**when we draw refreshment from deep wells of living water.**

We shall make the deeds of God known among all nations

**And proclaim to all that God's name is to be glorified and praised.**

**Prayer of Invocation** Pastor Alex

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

**Hymn of Praise** "Savior of the Nations, Come" [v.v. 1, 2] NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy**

*Rejoice in the Lord always.*

*[The first purple candle of Hope on the Advent wreath is lit.]*

*And again I will say, rejoice.*

*[The second purple candle of Peace on the Advent wreath is lit.]*

Let your gentleness be... God will keep us in Christ Jesus.

*[The pink candle of Joy on the Advent wreath is lit.]*

**Anthem** "Alleluia, He Is Coming" by Rojahn and Dengler Chancel Choir

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

**Sung Prayer for Illumination #230** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" [v. 3] ST. LOUIS

✠ **Gospel Reading** "Luke 3:10-18" [NRSV] Larry Tripp

**Children's Message** "The Real Thing" [adapted from Sermon 4 kids] Pastor Alex

[All children are invited to proceed to Sunday School for lessons on Luke 1:39-66 "Mary Visits Elizabeth"]

**Reflecting on God's Message**

"Genuine Joy"

Pastor Alex

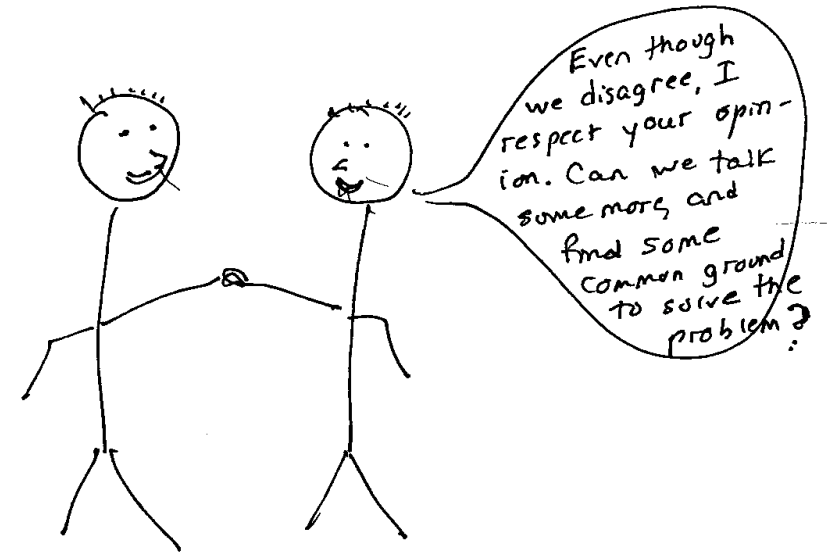
**Hymn of Response #160**

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" [v. 1]

MARION

**Prayers of the People**

My hope + prayer



**Hymn of Response #160**

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" [v.v. 2, 3]

MARION

**Invitation to Offering** [adapted from poem by Jessica Powers]

**Offering of Tithes and Gifts** "Christmas Suite" arr. by Arnold B. Sherman Handbell Choir

✠ **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**

## GOING FORTH

✠ **Closing Hymn #211** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [v.v. 1, 6] VENI EMMANUEL

**Commission, Benediction & Passing of the Peace**

*We joyously go preparing the way for Emmanuel, God with us! Amen!*

**Postlude**

"Allegro in D major" by J. C. Bach

Zoe Vandermeer