

*who carried My Light in darkness;  
we will birth together, and our child will carry My torch.*

*blessed are those who serve with wisdom,  
who midwife My coming and  
witness hope as it crowns;  
they will be the first to see His radiance.*

*blessed are those who gift their hearts  
with tenderness and joy;  
I will open them each day,  
and fill them to give again:*

*blessed are those who love  
blessed are those who host the poor  
blessed are those with arms for children  
blessed are those who are meek and mild  
blessed are those who seek My guidance  
blessed are those who awaken to life  
blessed are those oblivious to hate  
blessed are those who move with Me  
blessed are those who know Me...  
and those who don't.*

*My Light is gentle but strong,  
it covers My people, settles and secures them.  
because they ache to receive Me  
and I long to liberate them from fear.  
Warm the blankets,  
open your arms,  
prepare your hearts,  
the Messiah has come!*

### The Great Thanksgiving

#### GOING FORTH

✚ Carol                      “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” *[please refer to insert]*

### Sharing of the Light of Christ

✚ Carol                      “Silent Night” *[please refer to insert]*

### Commission, Benediction and Passing of the Peace

cover collage: by pastor alex

# New Milford United Methodist Church

## Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service

December 24, 2015 at 5:30pm

*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.*

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, Music Director  
Brinna Kolitz, Youth Leader | **Ministers:** All members of the New Milford UMC

\* **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

### Welcome

### Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Alex

**A Nativity Reflection** “Angels and a Holy Night” [video: TWOTP, words: Kelly Ann Hall]

† **Song** “You are Good”

† **Song** “Hallelujah, Your Love Is Amazing”

† **Song** “O Come Let Us Adore Him”

**Advent & Christ Candle Lighting** “Hallelujah Christmas”

[music: Cloverton’s adaptation of “Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen.

Text adapted from “*Worship Connection: Christmas Eve 2015* (Option 2)” by Nancy C. Townley]

We light the first Advent Candle: the candle of watching and waiting in hope for we have searched and waited for our Savior to come to us.

*[a purple candle is lit and a “Hallelujah” verse is sung]*

We light the second Advent Candle: the candle of preparation in peace as we have prepared our hearts to receive the Savior.

*[a purple candle is lit and a “Hallelujah” verse is sung]*

We light the third Advent Candle: the candle of joy in beholding and believing because we have seen the mighty power and grace of God in our lives.

*[the pink candle is lit and a “Hallelujah” verse is sung]*

We light the fourth Advent Candle: the candle of love because we have been blessed with the good news of God’s unconditional love for all God’s people!

*[a purple candle is lit and a “Hallelujah” verse is sung]*

*Now the time is near! The One who will save us, brings God’s light into our world. We light this Christ Candle in celebration of God’s most precious gift to us – our Savior Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, AMEN!*

† **Gospel Reading** Luke 2:1-20 [MSG - adapted with inclusive language]

### Children’s Message

Pastor Alex

### Reflecting on God’s Message

“Put Ourselves Back in Christ”

Pastor Alex

### Invitation to Offering

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts

### 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

[adapted from text by Moira B. Laidlaw @ liturgiesonline.com.au]

We celebrate the coming of the Light of the world;  
we have prayed for that light to enter our lives and our world.  
Yet we confess that there have been times when we have obscured the light for others through insensitivity and prejudice,  
through the use of careless and hurtful words or selfish and destructive actions.

*[silent confession]*

*Come Jesus, be light for our darkness and empower us with your Spirit to be faithful bearers of your light and love into all the shadowy and clouded areas of the human experience. Amen.*

### Assurance of Pardon

God has revealed Divine grace and unconditional love for the salvation of all people in Jesus Christ.  
Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.  
**By God’s grace you are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**Visual Reflection** “Birth Giver” [video: TWOTP, text by Kelly Ann Hall, music by The Brilliance]

*blessed are the visionaries,  
who agreed to My foresight,  
and kept eyes for this day;  
the yet-to-be has been their company.*

*blessed is the light-bearer,  
the host who agreed to My Spirit,*

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar,*  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light; ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face  
 lend thy light; with the an - gels let us sing,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
*Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar, schlaf im himm - li - scher*  
 heavenly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Sav - ior is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
 Al - le - lu - ia to our King; Christ the Sav - ior is

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
*Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

The pew candle decorations and poinsettias decorating our sanctuary this Christmas were given to the glory of God by the following:

The Cannito Family loving memory of Bonnie Cannito and in honor of Bill and Carol Barwick.

Art Carlson in loving memory of Fay Carlson and Axel and Lillian Carlson

Charles Chapin in loving memory of his parents.

Marlene Davis in memory and in honor of loved ones.

Don and Lynn Hayes in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Patty & Harold Jacobson in loving memory of their parents Jean and Harold Jacobson and Norma and Robert Fiet and in honor of their granddaughter Chloe.

Brinna Kowitz in honor of the youth of our church

Glenn & Bonnie Knapp in loving memory of their parents and in honor of their children and grandchildren.

David Kullgren in honor of his grandchildren.

Dave Kullgren in loving memory of Jean Kullgren

Helen Leary in loving memory of George L. Leary.

Jean Lord and Family in loving memory of Joe Lord and loved ones.

Ellie and Jen Middleton in memory of Alex.

Jennifer Middleton in loving memories of her parents, Alex and Ellie Middleton.

Jennifer Middleton in honor of Rhonda Michalek

Elizabeth Morin in loving memory of Sue DeBoy.

Elizabeth Morin in loving memory of Hank LeMein.

Heather Morin in honor of R.T., Anthony, and Elizabeth (her rocks).

Robert and Sue O'Rourke in honor of their parents.

Jan & Gene Parsons in loving memory of their parents, Hazel & Earl Parsons and Dick & Leta Beach.

Laurel Partrick in loving memory of her parents

Adam Podraza in loving memory of Denise Kathleen Podraza and Stanislaw & Wladyslaw Podraza.

Chris and Mary Prause in memory of loved ones.

R.T. and Family in loving memory of Suzanne DeBoy

Linda and Alex Slater in loving memory of Walter Slater—husband and father.

Linda and Alex Slater in loving memory of Frederick Brenchley—father and grandfather.

Linda and Alex Slater in loving memory of Gary Brenchley—brother, uncle, and Godfather.

Joe and Nora Tigner in loving memory of Andres and Graciela Vargas.

Lu Vivona in loving memory of Ben Vivona.

## Our Life in Community

**Annual Charge Conference** - join us on Sunday, December 27th for our annual Charge Conference. We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**The Church Office** will be closed through January 3rd, 2016 so that our office staff may enjoy the holidays with their families. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**Spaghetti Supper** will be serving on Saturday, January 9 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Please join us for spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, (vegetarian or butter available upon request) plus salads, homemade desserts, and soft drink. For more information, please contact the church office at 860-354-4596.

**2016 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Narthex. If you do not have envelopes and would like them, please contact the church office at office@newmilfordumc.org or 860-354-4596.

**Cancellations and changes** to church services and events will be posted on WFSB (CBS Channel 3), WTNH (ABC Channel 8), on our website [www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org), and on the church phone system.



**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!** If you are a guest of our fellowship this evening, welcome! We are pleased to have you worshipping with us on this glorious night. We hope that you feel comfortable here and will return again this Sunday morning, December 27th, for our Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 a.m.

### Our Regular Worship Schedule:

Sunday Mornings: 9:30 am Traditional Service

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service

## 224 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Unison F C<sup>7</sup> F C

(Ref.) Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev-erywhere;

5 F Dm F/C C<sup>7</sup> F Fine

go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.

F C F

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when,  
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger our

11 C<sup>7</sup> Dm C F C

si-lent flocks by night, be-hold, through-out the  
lo! a-bove the earth rang out the an-gel  
hum-ble Christ was born, and God sent us sal-

14 F Gm G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> D.C.

heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.  
cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.  
va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.