



\*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**

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who persecute you. Do this and you will truly be a follower of Christ. (B. J. Beu)

**Welcome and Announcements** Ed Dayton

**Introit** "Eternal God Transcending Time" (W&S 3030) Singing Choir

**\*Call to Worship** Chris Prause

God sets before us this day life and death, blessings and curses.

**We will seek God's blessings.**

Choose life, that you and your descendants may live.

**We will choose life.**

Love the Lord your God, and hold fast to God's holy ways.

**We will follow in the ways of our ancestors who abided in faith.**

Come, let us worship.

**\*Opening Prayer**

Loving God, we come before you today, seeking your blessings and your protection from the allure of sin. Heal us with your love, that we might love one another. Show us the truth we have found in Jesus. Embolden our courage, that we may seize the opportunities you place before us. Strengthen our resolve to spread your word and ways, and remind us that your guidance is always present through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise** "Freely Freely" #389

**\*Passing of the Peace of Christ** Pastor Ed

**Children's Message** Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

**Prayer of Confession** Chris Prause

Holy One, Guardian of our souls, lead us into the light. You alone know the secret places of our hearts, the dark places where we hide from your presence. You alone understand our pride and envy, the strife we would pursue against others, our self-imposed limits of belief and faithful action. We ask for your forgiveness. Shine your light in our darkness, that we may see you more clearly and choose the light of your blessings, and the glory of your mercy and grace. Amen.

**Words of Assurance** Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response**

"Pass It On"

#572

**Scripture Reading**

Psalms 37:1-11

Chris Prause

**Exhortation to Patience and Trust of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- <sup>2</sup> for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.
- <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- <sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
- <sup>6</sup> He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.
- <sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- <sup>9</sup> For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
- <sup>10</sup> Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
- <sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

*(Musical interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**

Luke 6:27-38

Chris Prause

**Love for Enemies**

**27** "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. **29** If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. **30** Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.<sup>[a]</sup> Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

### Judging Others

**37** “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

### Reflecting on God’s Message

“Aren’t We All Victims?”

Pastor Ed

### Prayers of the People

### Offertory anthem

“Child of God”  
(Walter Ehret)

Singing Choir

### Invitation of the Offering

musical selection by Harlan Otter

### \*Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”  
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

UMH # 95

### Offering Prayer

Pastor Ed

O God, your goodness and generosity are limitless and eternal. We bring before you our gifts, as echoes of your generosity, that they may be used for good. We know that it is more blessed to give than to receive. May our giving be a sign of this blessing for others and for our course in faith.

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

### \*Sending Hymn

“Be Still My Soul”

#534

### Lord’s Prayer

**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.  
Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Benediction

### Postlude

Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgist: Chris Prause

**Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC**



\*Prayers for Reconciliation (after WWII Bombings), from Art in the Christian Tradition

## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany | 2.20.2022 | 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 identity, age, race, religious background, economic status,  
sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.**