



\*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**

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.  
You who have no money, come, buy wine and milk without money, without price.  
Come, weary and worn, and God will fill your soul.  
For God brings blessing, even in the midst of pain.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Ed Dayton

**Missions Moment**

**UM Men's Moment**

**Introit**

"The Lord of Life, a Vine is He"  
by Mary Kay Beall

Singing Choir

**\*Call to Worship**

O God, my God, we seek you.  
**Our souls thirst for you.**  
Our spirits long for you,  
**for we are parched and weary in these desert times, these wilderness places.**  
But your love, O God, is better even than life.  
**Our words will praise you, our actions bless you.**  
Let us seek the Lord where God may be found.  
**Call upon the Holy One, who is near.**  
We will bless you as long as we live.  
**We will lift up our hands and call on your name.**

Rosaura Frias

**\*Opening Prayer**

Holy One, when we are alone in the desert, wandering through the wilderness, we call to you, for you are our help.  
Our souls cling to you.  
Come, God, and hold us up.  
Come, bring your presence and fill us with your peace.  
In the shadow of your wings, we will sing for joy. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

#519

**\*Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Pastor Ed

**Children's Message**

Pastor Ed

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

**Prayer of Confession**

Rosaura Frias

God of Mercy, we long to come when you call, yet often do not.  
When we are most alone, we fail to turn to you.  
When we are most afraid, we do not always think we can turn to you.  
When we are lost, hurting, and in pain, we fail to realize how much we suffer.

We refuse to ask for help. We lash out at others.  
We numb our hearts. We hide.  
Forgive us. But you, O God, are faithful.  
You see us and know us and love us as we are.  
In times of trial, you show us the way through.  
Receive us once more, and have mercy on us.  
As we seek your presence, help us place our trust in the grace of your heart, and help us begin again. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response**

"Spirit of God"

#2117

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 55:1-9

Rosaura Frias

**An Invitation to Abundant Life**

**55** Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.  
<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*(Musical interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**  
**Repent or Perish**

Luke 13:1-9

Rosaura Frias

**13** At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. **4** Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

**The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree**

**6** Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. **7** So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ **8** He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. **9** If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**Reflecting on God’s Message** “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?” Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Offertory anthem** “Out of the Shadows” Singing Choir  
By John Purifoy

**Invitation of the Offering** musical selection by Harlan Otter

**\*Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH # 95  
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

**Offering Prayer** Pastor Ed

God of grace, you have fed our spirits and nourished our souls.  
You have supported us in every possible way.  
May the gifts we bring this morning be an offering of our gratitude, and may they be a promise to share what we have received from your hand. Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn** WE RESPOND TO THE WORD #378  
**Lord’s Prayer** “Amazing Grace”

**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

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | [www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org) | 860.354.4596  
Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgist: Rosaura Frias

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



Jesus heals the crippled woman and the Parable of the Fig Tree, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, 1430

## **Third Sunday in Lent | 3.20.2022 | 9:30 am**

***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.***