



\*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 NMUMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

**Prelude**

Harlan Otter

**Words to Ponder:**

Do not fear your doubts. Mother Teresa, John of the Cross, and other spiritual giants were tormented by doubt during their lives. Doubt is a pathway to a deeper, richer faith—a faith where we can say with Thomas, “My Lord and my God!”

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Amanda Thomas

Praise the Lord.

**Praise God in the sanctuary. Worship God in the mighty firmament.**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

**Praise God with trumpet and horn. Worship God with lute and harp.**

Let the people of God sing their praise.

**Praise God with tambourine and dance. Worship God with strings and pipes.**

Let the faithful join the strain.

**Praise God with clashing cymbals. Praise God with beating drums.**

Praise the Lord!

**\*Opening Prayer**

Eternal God, who was and is and is to come, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end of all things. Come to us now in visions and dreams, that our eyes may see more than they see, and our hearts may love more than they love. Make yourself known to us in this time of worship, for in you, we live and move and have our being. Bring your kingdom here on earth, that all may know your glory and find the courage to face each day. We ask this in the name of the one who conquered the grave to bring us eternal life. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (v1, 2 & 5)

UMH#139

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

Pastor Ed

**Children’s Message**

Pastor Ed

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

WE HEAR THE WORD

Amanda Thomas

God who abides in our doubts, we yearn for the courage to believe where we have not seen; we long for the ability to perceive things hidden from our eyes; we desire to embrace the riches of our faith when death looms all around us. Like Thomas before us, we often struggle to believe the mystery of your resurrection. So many doubts remain. So much uncertainty closes our minds to the wisdom that stirs our souls. Yet you work in and through our doubts, leading us ever deeper into the mystery of Christ, through the power of your Holy Spirit. May we see Christ’s glory amidst our doubts and proclaim with Thomas, “My Lord and my God!” Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response**

“I Love To Tell The Story” (v1,2&4)

UMH#156

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 5:27-32

Amanda Thomas

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,<sup>[a]</sup> yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**

John 20:19-31

Amanda Thomas

**Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

**19** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

**Jesus and Thomas**

**24** But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

**26** A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said to him,

“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

**The Purpose of This Book**

**30** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may come to believe<sup>[b]</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Reflecting on God’s Message**

“Peace Be With You”

Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

Pastor Ed

**Invitation of the Offering**

Pastor Ed

**Offertory Music**

Harlan Otter

**Offering Prayer**

Pastor Ed

Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, you are the source of every blessing. We behold your glory in the skies and touch your mystery all around us. In the beauty of our awakening, our doubts give way to a deep and abiding joy. In gratitude for your many mercies, we offer you these gifts and offerings, that they may be signs of our commitment to live as your faithful disciples. Amen.

**\*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

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn**

“Thine Be The Glory”

UMH#308

**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**

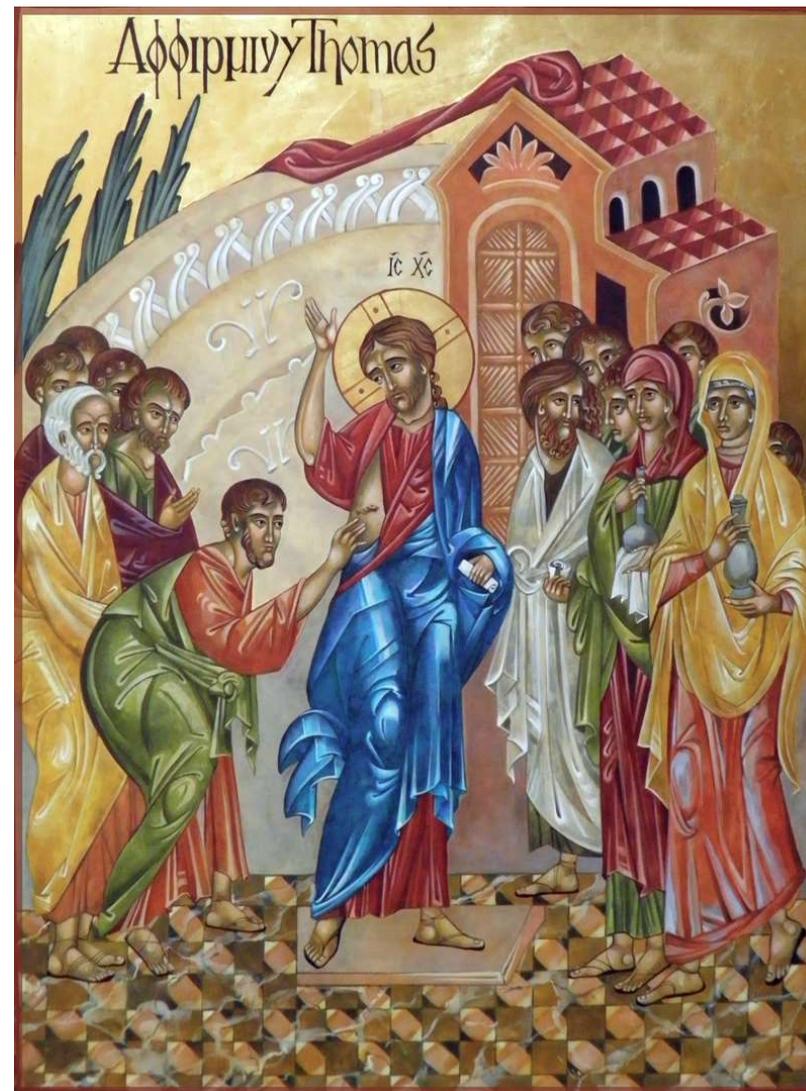
Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter

Liturgist – Amanda Thomas

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



\*Miller, Mary Jane. Doubting Thomas

## **Second Sunday of Easter | 4.24.2022 | 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.*