



NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Peace with Justice Sunday

05 . 30 . 2021 | 9:30am

All are welcome here.



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 Savior 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 each other as beloved children of God!***

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome and Announcements
Centering Prayer

Pastor Mel
Pastor Mel

Call to Worship

Friends, we are all creatures of a loving Creator.

**To this Creating God,
we lift our voices in praise and prayer.**

Creator of the universe,

**you made the world in beauty and creativity.
You saw what you created and called it good.**

And when we go astray into sin or lack of love,

**you restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.**

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured

**by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,
the new creation in Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace,**

to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise: *Here I Am To Worship*

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

So here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down; Here I am to say that You're my God. And You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted, Glorious in heaven above, Humbly You came To the earth You created, All for love's sake became poor.

So here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down; Here I am to say that You're my God. And You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

So here I am to worship; here I am to bow down; Here I am to say that You're my God. And You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Lesson: *John 3:1-17, NIV adapted for inclusive language*

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with them." **3** Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" **5** Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. **10** "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? **11** Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

16 For God so loved the world that God gave God's one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send God's Child into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

*Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!***

Listening for God's Message

"Great Expectations"

Charles Samson

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response: *What Does the Lord Require of You UMH #441*

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?

What sacrifice, desire, tribute bid you bring?

Refrain: Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?

Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow? **Refrain.**

All who gain wealth by trade, for whom the worker toils,

Think not to win God's aid, if greed your commerce soils. **Refrain.**

How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?

Let Christ endue our will with grace to fortify. **Refrain.**

Invitation to Offering

Pastor Mel

Please consider making an offering online <https://bit.ly/NMUMCGive>

Offertory Prayer**Pastor Mel****A Choral Lord's Prayer****Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC**

You are invited to sing or pray, aloud or silently, whichever version of the Lord's Prayer is closest to your heart. You may also follow along with the version printed below:

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT**Closing Hymn:** *Lord I Lift Your Name On High***Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC**

Lord I lift your name on high! Lord I love to sing your praises!
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us!

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.
Lord, I lift your name on high!

Benediction**Pastor Mel****Departing Hymn:** *Shalom To You***Performed by CAYA
of Simsbury UMC**

Cover Image: John August Swanson, *Celebration*, serigraph, 1997.

Note: Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship online possible, and to our congregants whose continued efforts help to keep our community safe from COVID19. We lift up deep gratitude for the collaboration involved in making this worship service happen for the glory of God and the delight of Creation!

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