

the 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.
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. amen.

breaking the bread and giving the cup

everyone, regardless of church membership, is invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion. We will be taking communion by intinction; receive bread from the server and dip it in the cup, receiving both elements together. if you wish you may kneel at the altar rail for prayer before returning to your seat.

prayer after receiving

o light divine, by bread and wine you make this holy mystery of your birth real to us. send us forth into the world to be your light to the nations. amen.

message "the moment you've all been waiting for..." rev. paul a. fleck

lighting of the christmas candles

as the congregation stands to sing "silent night," the usher will bring the light from the Christ candle to the congregation. Keep the lit candle straight; tip your unlit candle to the lit candle of your neighbor.

hymn 239 "silent night"

*silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

hymn 246 "joy to the world"
sending forth

LAY LEADERS

liturgist: marilyn fuller
ushers: bill and jody ihlo

lighting the advent wreath: the walsh family

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 the glorious night. We hope that you feel comfortable here and will return again for our joint service at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday morning, December 28th.

our regular sunday worship schedule:

9:30 am traditional service
10:00 am children's sunday school
11:30 am contemporary worship service

Nativity of
our Lord
December 24



C H R I S T M A S - E V E



**December 24, 2014
at 5:30 in the evening**

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. We especially welcome every visitor today. We are very glad you came.

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.

**the open door
contemporary worship**

...in a religion born in a barn,
an open door goes without saying.

song 4 "amen"
song 83 "everybody praise the Lord"

song 72 "emmanuel"

emmanuel, emmanuel. emmanuel, emmanuel.
wonderful counselor, Lord of life, Lord of all,
he is the prince of peace, mighty God, holy one,
emmanuel, emmanuel.

sing twice

lighting of the advent candles

tonight is the night we have been waiting for, when waiting is transformed into awestruck wonder. we celebrate Jesus coming into this world and light all five candles. the **first candle** beckons us to the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. the **second candle** reminds us of the ultimate hope that comes through our Savior's birth. the **third candle** invites us to share the joy of shepherds and angles announcing the savior's birth. the **fourth candle** reminds us of the good news of great joy that tells us God's love is stronger than human sin. the **Christ candle** reminds us that from the moment he took his first breath until the day of his glorious return, Jesus says to each of us, "surely i am with you always, to the very end of the age."

repeat one verse of "emmanuel"

scripture Luke 2:1-20

page 58 in the new testament in the pew Bible

the word of God for the people of God.

thanks be to God.

children's message

song 41 "come and see"
song 61 "breathe"

offering

offertory "what child is this?"

offering prayer

confession and pardon

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

gracious God, you have sent your Son to us to show us the way. even when we have turned our backs, followed our own paths, you offer us Light. Forgive us when we are so willful and stubborn. forgive us when we think more about ourselves and our comforts than we think of reaching out to others. remind us again that Jesus witnessed to us the light of love that serves, guides and heals. Thank you for loving us so much that you would give us this most precious gift. and when we again falter and fail, lift us again with your gentle touch. pour the light into our lives once more, that finally, we will fully understand the power and depth of your love for us. amen.

words of assurance

hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. do not be afraid. this is a day for good news of great joy! the Savior is born anew in our midst. glory to God in the highest! praise God for all we are seeing and hearing, as love is made known among us. in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. glory to God. amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

the Lord be with you.

and also with you.

lift up your hearts.

we lift them up to the Lord.

let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

it is right to give our thanks and praise.

it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. you created light out of darkness and brought forth life on earth. you formed us in your image and breathed unto us the breath of life.

when we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. you delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. in the fullness of time you gave your only son, Jesus Christ, to be our savior, and at his birth angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. and so, with your people on earth and all the

company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest. blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. hosanna in the highest.

holy are you, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ. as mary and joseph went from galilee to bethlehem and found no room, so Jesus went from galilee to jerusalem and was despised and rejected. as in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit.

as your word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. do this in remembrance of me."

when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

pour out your holy spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

by your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. through your son Jesus Christ, with the holy spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **amen.**

AMEN Jack Schrader 4
AMEN AMEN AMEN AMEN AMEN
See the baby **AMEN**
Wrapped in a manger **AMEN**
On Christmas Morning! **AMEN**
See him in the Temple **AMEN**
Talking to the elders **AMEN**
Who marveled at his wisdom **AMEN**
Down at the Jordan **AMEN**
Where John was baptizin' **AMEN**
And savin' all sinners **AMEN**
See him at the seaside **AMEN**
Talking with the fishermen **AMEN**
And making them disciples **AMEN**
Marching in Jerusalem **AMEN**
Over Palm Branches **AMEN**
In pomp and splendor **AMEN**
See him in the garden **AMEN**
Praying with his Father **AMEN**
In deepest sorrows **AMEN**
Laid before Pilate **AMEN**
Then they crucified him **AMEN**
But he rose on Easter **AMEN**
Hallelujah **AMEN**
He died to save us **AMEN**
And he lives forever **AMEN AMEN AMEN**

Everybody Praise the Lord

I thank the Lord for what, for what He's done in us
I thank the Lord for His love
I thank the Lord for what He's gonna do in us
From the Heavens above
I thank the Lord for the smile that He's put on my face
I thank the Lord for His grace
I thank the Lord for the joy that He has given to me
'Cuz now I know that I am really set free

CHORUS:

Everybody Everybody
Everybody praise the Lord
Everybody Everybody
Everybody praise the Lord

Come and See Lenny LeBlanc 41
Come and see the glory of the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and see the mercy of the King,
Bowing down before Him.

Come and give thanks unto the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and sing the praises of the King,
Bowing down before Him.

For He is Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth.
Lord of all the angels,
Worthy to be served.
Alleluia, alleluia

Come and see the glory of the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and see the mercy of the King,
Bowing down before Him.

For He is Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth.
Lord of all the angels,
Worthy, so worthy to be served.
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia

Breathe Marie Barnett 61

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your Holy presence living in me

This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for you
And I, I'm lost without you

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your Holy presence living in me

This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me
And I, I'm desperate for you
And I, I'm lost without you

And I, I'm desperate for you
And I, I'm lost without you

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make
His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His love

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

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

Anne Carlson in memory of her husband, Warren Carlson.

Charles Chapin in loving memory of his parents.

Carl and Mary Curry in loving memory of Debbie Sharpe, beloved Sister.

Marlene Davis in honor of loved ones.

Bob DeBoy in loving memory of Sue DeBoy and in honor of Heather Morin.

Paul Fleck in memory of Freida Fleck and Margaret Kommes.

Don & Lynn Hayes in loving memory of their parents and in honor of their wonderful children and grandchildren.

Bill & Jody Ihlo in loving memory of Fred & Fran Ihlo and Lee & Cornelia Winters.

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 Ann.

Dave Kullgren in loving memory of Jean Kullgren and in honor of his grandchildren.

Helen Leary in loving memory of George Leary.

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

The Mazza Family in loving memory of Sue DeBoy and in honor of Bob and Joan Hoburg.

Jennifer Middleton in honor of her parents, Alex and Eleanor Middleton.

Ellie and Jen Middleton in memory of Alex.

The Nixon family in memory of loved ones.

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

Laurel and Bruce Partrick in loving memory of Kenneth & Winnie Andrus and Gertrude & Merle Partrick.

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

Alex Slater in loving memory of his father, Walter Slater; Grandpa Brenchley; and Uncle/Godfather, Gary Brenchley.

Linda Slater in loving memory of her husband, Walter Slater; her dad—Fred Brenchley; and her brother, Gary Brenchley.

Ed Whaley in memory of Dorothy O. Whaley and in honor of loved ones.



Our Life in Community

December 28 Joint Worship Service at 10 a.m.—Our founder John Wesley established Covenant Services as an important part of early Methodist life. The first Methodist Covenant Service was held August 11, 1755. Wesley found the service rich and meaningful. Eventually these services came to be held on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, or a Sunday early in the year. The heart of the service, focused on the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God and asks congregants to participate sincerely. Please join us for this important and meaningful service.

Church Office Closed—The Church Office will be closed December 29th and 30th so that our office staff may enjoy the holidays with their families. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Not Just Eggs- Not Just Eggs will be serving on Sunday January 4, from 8:30 am 11:30 am and is open to all.

Spaghetti Supper will be serving on Saturday, January 10 from 5:00 - 7:00 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.

2015 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, and on the church phone system.

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