

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, “This is the Prophet for sure, God’s Prophet right here in Galilee!” Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself. ¹⁶⁻²¹ In the evening his disciples went down to the sea, got in the boat, and headed back across the water to Capernaum. It had grown quite dark and Jesus had not yet returned. A huge wind blew up, churning the sea. They were maybe three or four miles out when they saw Jesus walking on the sea, quite near the boat. They were scared senseless, but he reassured them, “It’s me. It’s all right. Don’t be afraid.” So they took him on board. In no time they reached land—the exact spot they were headed to.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Reflecting on God’s Message

Pastor Alex

† **Hymn of Response #467**

“Trust and Obey”

TRUST AND OBEY

Invitation to Offering

Let us give as generously as the ones following Jesus 2000 years ago.
 Let us give in faith that what we give can potentially feed the spirits and the bodies thousands.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

† **Doxology [IN UNISON]**

“Praise God...”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Offering Prayer [adapted from “Living Aligned” by John van de Laar]

Pastor Alex

GOING FORTH

† **Closing Hymn # 140**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

Commission, Benediction, and Passing the Peace

Go from this place, enriched by the abundant love of God,
 nourished by the selfless care of Jesus Christ,
 strengthened by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude



The Service of Worship
 New Milford United Methodist Church
 68 Danbury Road
 New Milford, CT 06776
 www.newmilfordumc.org
 860-354-4596

Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, Pastor
 Sandy Lybe, Music Minister
 Brinna Kolitz, Youth Leader
 Emily Nixon, Open Door Band Leader

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 2015 at 9:00 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, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.

*** The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Holy Spirit.**
 † **Means you are invited to stand if able.**

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Prelude

Welcome and News

[Please refer to the bulletin insert for “Our Life in Community” news, and please share it with your family and friends.]

† **Opening Hymn #347**

“Spirit Song”

SPIRIT SONG

† **Call to Worship**

We come to God this day, the One who names each of us as a beloved child.
Here in these moments together, we recognize God dwelling in us.
 We come to Christ this day, the One whose love is the bedrock of our lives.
Here in this place of glory and grace, we long for the One who calls us to faith.
 We come to the Sweet Spirit this day, the One who calms our fears with peace and hope.
Here with those who are our sisters and brothers,
we come to seize the opportunities to worship, celebrate and serve.

All Sit.

Prayer of Invocation [“Good Shepherd” by John van de Laar]

Pastor Alex

In the mist languishing on this holy ground,
 in the shadows crawling across the lawn;
 in the boisterous teenagers laughter;
 in the sweet breath of a baby cooling our cheeks;
 in the rich stories of grandparents around the dinner table,
 in the giggling of children sharing a secret;
 in our rising to new life each morning,

in the comforting arms of sleep;
in the healing power of Christ's love,
in God's overflowing Cup of Grace;
in all these, and so many more,
we are blessed with the richness of your glory in our lives,
and offer our praises to You.

✠**Hymn of Praise #384** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” [v.v.1, 2] BEECHER

Morning Prayer [*Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.*]

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer [*IN UNISON*] UMH 895

*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.

✠**Hymn of Praise #384** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” [v.v.3, 4] BEECHER

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

God of Wisdom and Truth,
Teach us the faith of the sparrow,
Teach us the love that drives out fear,
And teach us to stop clinging to our lives,
but to find life by giving ourselves up for Your Kin-Dom. Amen.

First Reading “Psalm 14” [The Message (MSG)] Pastor Alex

A David Psalm

¹Bilious and bloated, they gas,
“God is gone.”

Their words are poison gas,
fouling the air; they poison
Rivers and skies;
thistles are their cash crop.

²God sticks his head out of heaven.

He looks around.
He's looking for someone [wise]—
one man, even, God-expectant,
just one God-ready woman.

³He comes up empty. A string
of zeros. Useless, unshepherded
Sheep, taking turns pretending
to be Shepherd.

The ninety and nine
follow their fellow.

⁴Don't they know anything,

all these impostors?

Don't they know
they can't get away with this—
Treating people like a fast-food meal
over which they're too busy to pray?

⁵⁻⁶Night is coming for them, and nightmares,
for God takes the side of victims.

Do you think you can mess
with the dreams of the poor?
You can't, for God
makes their dreams come true.

⁷Is there anyone around to save Israel?
Yes. God is around; God turns life around.

Turned-around Jacob skips rope,
turned-around Israel sings laughter.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message “Challenges” Pastor Alex

Congregation Sings “Jesus Loves Me” as children return to their pews.

Gospel Reading “John 6:1-21” [The Message (MSG)] Chris Prause

¹⁻⁴After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias).

A huge crowd followed him,
attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick.
When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down,
surrounded by his disciples.

It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

⁵⁻⁶When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread to feed these people?”

He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered,

“Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread
for each person to get a piece.”

⁸⁻⁹One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said,
“There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish.

But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this.”

¹⁰⁻¹¹Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.”

There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place.

They sat down, about five thousand of them.

Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks,

gave it to those who were seated.

He did the same with the fish.

All ate as much as they wanted.

¹²⁻¹³When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples,
“Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted.”

They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers
from the five barley loaves.