

Freedom is coming,
O yes I know...

Yes, I know, O yes I know
O yes I know, freedom is coming
O yes I know!

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The congregation joins in repeating Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in your sight, Lord,
my strength and my redeemer.

Sermon "Freed and Captivated by Grace" REV. PAUL A. FLECK

Please stand if you are able to sing the song

Song 2 "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

SENDING FORTH

Joys and Concerns

our prayers are with:

- Marlene Davis' son, whose cancer was more serious than originally thought.
- Kay Jones' niece, Sherri, whose cancer has returned.
- Jan and Gene Parsons' friend, Brad, whose cancer has returned.
- Brady Tripp's mother-in-law who has cancer.
- Eileen Clark, who recently had a stroke.
- Sue Sterling's cousin, Mary, who has lung cancer
- The LaBella family whose daughter is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Millie Ackerly's daughter who is receiving cancer treatment.

Our Life in Community

For more information about any item listed below, please contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or office@newmilford.org

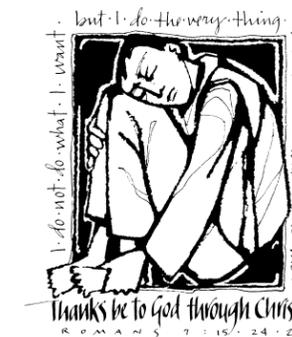
VBS - Would you like to spend a week in the evenings at Gangway to Galilee, helping our children discover the welcoming love of God at work all around us? At Gangway to Galilee, we will help children experience God's amazing grace through dramas, crafts, games, science activities, music, and hours of fun! Sign up for a **Vacation Bible School** leadership role and join us in the excitement at Gangway to Galilee. VBS will be held August 4-8, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. To volunteer, contact Barbara Williams at 860-354-4203 or the Church Office at 860-354-4596.

The Mix—How does the Word speak to your life? Join us in Fellowship Hall for food, live music, and scripture this Wednesday, July 9 and Wednesday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m. We will engage in Lectio Divina/Pneuma Divina, letting the Holy Spirit guide our reading.

Small Group Scripture Study—A small group to study scripture will be held at the Tripp home one Wednesday a month beginning July 16th from 6:45—7:45 p.m. If you're interested in participating, please see Pat Tripp or call 860-354-8720 and leave a message.

Our Daily Bread: Our Daily Bread Food Pantry is in need of macaroni & cheese, tuna fish, and toilet paper. We appreciate your continued support of this mission.

Fourth
Sunday after
Pentecost



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

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor
Sandy Lybe, Music Minister
Brinna Kolitz, Youth Pastor
Emily Nixon, Open Door Band Leader

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Blended Service—Sunday, July 6, 2014 at 10:00 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. 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.

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Prelude

Announcements

Hymn 526 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" CONVERSE

Call to Worship

Has it been a rough week for you?

In some ways, it has been.

Do you feel burdened and exhausted?

Yes. This is supposed to be a season of relaxation, but our spirits feel dragged down with cares and concerns.

Bring your cares to the Lord, for God will surely offer healing balm for you.

Thanks be to God who listens to our cries and heals our spirits. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God,

in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard;

in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;

and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown.

Amen.

Epistle

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel Matthew 11:28-30
‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

The children are invited to come forward and sit at the chancel with the pastor as the congregation sings the first verse of Hymn 191, “Jesus Loves Me.”

Children’s Sermon

Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Please stand for the Doxology

Presentation

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.

Prayer of Dedication

All Sit.

Prayer

Lord of love and mercy, we come to you this day, at the beginning of the summer season. This should be a time of relaxation and restoration, but our spirits still carry the burdens of the year. Please give to us your healing love. Strengthen us. We offer our cares and our prayers to you in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

RESPONSES

Please stand if you are able to sing the song.

Song 69 “Here I am to Worship”

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Please end your prayer with: **This is my prayer,**

The congregation may respond: **This is our prayer.**

Pastoral Prayer

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

For all the ways we colonize each other—
with expectations, beliefs, judgments, and our own fear...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we squander right relationship—
grabbing to “have” more while some go without...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we abuse our freedom—
engaging hateful speech towards those not on “our” side...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we deny equality—
deeming some “in” and others “out...”

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

Silence

Words of Assurance

Freedom, O freedom

Freedom, O freedom

Freedom is coming,

O yes I know...

Jesus said, “I have come to set the prisoner free.”

No matter what binds you this day, freedom is yours through new life in Christ.

In the name of him who came to loose the chains, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, set free. Glory to God! Amen!

Passing the Peace of Christ

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Liberating God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts with joy!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give praise to the Author of Freedom!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and holy thing
to give our praise to you this day, Liberator of all Humankind.

You unleashed your creative power and a world blossomed.

You bestowed upon every living thing

life and breath, color and movement.

No matter how many battles we wage
within and between ourselves and against you,
your promise, vision and gift of peace and abundance continues.

And so we lift up our voices in celebration of You!

Holy, holy, holy are You!

We join all the prophets and saints!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

We join the parade of justice!

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord!

We add our cries and exclamations!

Hosanna in the highest!

All sing:

Freedom, O freedom

Freedom, O freedom

Freedom is coming,

O yes I know...

Yes, I know, O yes I know

O yes I know, freedom is coming

O yes I know!

Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus.

To those who were imprisoned

by status, law, illness, poverty, gender, age, disease,

he said, “your belief has set you free. You are a child of God.”

He invited disciples, friends and strangers alike to his tables.

He proclaimed God’s grace to all with whom he broke bread.

He proclaimed God’s love to all with whom he shared the cup.

And he told us to remember:

freedom has come,

and freedom is coming!

All sing:

Freedom, O freedom

Freedom, O freedom

Freedom is coming,

O yes I know...

Yes, I know, O yes I know

O yes I know, freedom is coming

O yes I know!

Holy Spirit, transform this meal and transform this body

so that we might be free to love without condition,

invite without hesitance, go without reservation

and proclaim your freedom to all the world!

Let the people say, “**Amen!**”

All sing:

Freedom, O freedom

Freedom, O freedom