

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

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ and that we may become one in him.
May Christ's coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all people will be free, all divisions healed, all walls demolished, and with your whole creation, we will sing your praise.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the glory and honor are yours, almighty God forever and ever.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Everyone, regardless of church membership, is invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion.

Prayer After Receiving

For the healing you have given us in the broken bread and through the pouring out of new life in the sharing of the cup, we thank you. For the community you have restored by the power of your Holy Spirit, we thank you. For the courage and strength that are once again ours, we thank you. By your grace, send us out now to conference together and to share justice with gentleness, as Jesus has shown us. 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 "Why Faith?" **REV. PAUL A. FLECK**

Please stand, if you are able, as we sing.

Hymn 710 "Faith of Our Fathers" **ST. CATHERINE**
Song 63 "My Redeemer Lives"

SENDING FORTH

New Milford United Methodist Church
Every Member A Disciple

Ushers: Art and Laurie Putnam
Liturgist: Martha McMahan

Notes

Thirteenth
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 Leader
Emily Nixon, Open Door Band Leader

Rally Sunday/Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Combined Service—Sun., September 7, 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 529 "How Firm a Foundation" **FOUNDATION**

Call to Worship

Praise God for things seen:
for stars and heavens,
for sand and seashore.
Praise God for things hoped for,
for things not seen.
Praise God for the gift of faith!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

God of Hope,
By faith we know that you created the world,
And that what is seen is made by things that are not visible.
Open our eyes to your presence among us
That we may hear your word with clarity
And a sureness of hope,
As we follow you in all righteousness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament

Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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 Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

All Sit.

Anthem “We’re a Fellowship of Believers” ALTHOUSE

Prayer

O God, your blessings are as plentiful as the stars above
And as numerous as the grains of sand along the seashore,
We come before you with grateful hearts
As we pray for the church and the world, saying,
O God of hope,
Increase our faith.

We pray for wisdom and guidance
For all people and leaders of this world,
That they may foster peace and justice and serve the common
good.
O God of hope,
Increase our faith

We pray for your church, that by your grace and our faith
We may serve you with constancy and love.
O God of hope,
Increase our faith.

We pray for those who are sick or suffer any need,
That they would know your healing strength
And find comfort through our faithful care.
O God of hope,
Increase our faith.

Help us to protect the goodness of your creation,
That all may enjoy the precious blessings of this world
As foretaste of the next.
O God of hope,
Increase our faith.

We remember those who have died
And look to that heavenly city
Where with you and all your saints
We will enter the everlasting heritage
Of your faithful sons and daughters.
O God of hope,
Increase our faith.

Holy God, steadfast and true,
On you our hope is founded.
Receive the prayers of your faithful people
For our hearts are gladdened by our trust in you. **Amen.**

RESPONSES

Please stand, if you are able, as we sing.

Song 13 “Above All”

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

The lay leader will conclude: Lord in your mercy.

The congregation responds: Hear our prayer.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession

Glorious and loving God, please forgive us our errors and our deliberate actions that have hurt you, those we love, those we do not love, and our own selves. We are sorry and we surrender now to you our shame, our guilt, and our feelings of hurt or pride that keep us imprisoned in the past. We go back to the very moment of any disruption in our relationship with you, with one another, with our family members, our loved ones, our parishioners or those people we work with, and turn that time over to you, asking for your healing, your mercy, and your forgiveness. Free us, release us, heal us and make us whole. We pray for ourselves, for one another in our need, and for those we have harmed or who have harmed us. Help us to give and to accept the gift of forgiveness freely as Jesus did. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God most high.

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:

God of earth and sea, God of love and life,

God of the past, the present and all eternity.

When nothing existed but chaos, your Spirit swept across the waters and brought forth light and life.

When Hagar and Ishmael were dying of thirst,
you showed her the water which saved their lives.

When your servant, Rebekah gave a stranger a drink from her well,
you gave her a place among the mothers of Israel.

When you saw your children as slaves in Egypt,
you brought them to freedom through the sea,
and your daughter Miriam led them in singing your praise.

In the wilderness, when thirst began to overtake your children,
your servant Moses struck the rock with his staff,
and fresh water burst forth from your bounty.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels,
with prophets, apostles and martyrs and with faithful women and men of every age who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna and praise to you, O God, giver of every good gift.

In the fullness of time you sent your child Jesus to be born of our sister Mary,

and to live among us full of grace and truth.

As a first sign of his presence and power,

he took water of purification and transformed it into the wine of rejoicing.

At a well in Samaria, to a woman despised by all,

he first revealed himself to be the Christ.

He invited her to drink of his Spirit,
and to become a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

And so, remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,

we take from your creation this bread and this wine

and joyfully celebrate the feast of resurrection as we await Christ’s return.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you

to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith: