



**NEW MILFORD  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**



**Baptism of the Lord Sunday | 01.10.2021 | 9:30am**



\* **The order of service is** subject to change at the leading of **the Holy Spirit**.  
***Italicized Bold print*** invites congregational response in unison.  
 † Means you are **invited to stand or lift your hands** if able and comfortable.  
**Please invite** your friends to join our worship services on Facebook & share our livestream.

## **WE GATHER TOGETHER**

### **Welcome + Announcements**

**Pastor Sophy Gamber**

*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!***

### **Call to Worship**

**Pastor Mel Kawakami**

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

**People: We are gathered in your house, O God, to celebrate the light.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

**People: We praise you, Lord Jesus, for illuminating our path and helping us master our fear of the dark, even of the dark tunnel of death.**

Leader: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world.... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven."

**People: Spirit of God, empower our witness to the Light, in this service of worship and in our whole beings, as women and men claimed by the Light.**

**Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise: Morning Has Broken (vs. 1+2)**

**UMH #145**

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
 Praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
 Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Hebrew Bible Lesson:**

**Genesis 1:1-15**

(New Revised Standard Version)

**1** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**6** And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." **7** So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. **8** God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

**9** And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

**14** And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

**Gospel Lesson:**

**Mark 1:4-11**

(New Revised Standard Version)

**4** John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; [d] with you I am well pleased."

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

**Listening for God's Message**

"With You I Am Well Pleased"

**Pastor Mel**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Pastor Mel**

*If you are joining us online on Facebook during the livestream, we encourage you to type your prayer concerns in the comments section so that we can be in prayer with you over the week.*

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**Hymn of Response: Spirit Song**

**UMH#347**

Oh let the Son of God enfold you with His Spirit and His love  
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.  
Oh let Him have those things that hold you and His Spirit like a dove  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

**Refrain:** Jesus oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs  
Jesus oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs

Oh come and sing the song of gladness as your hearts are filled with joy  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.  
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness, give Him all your years of pain  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. **Refrain**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Pastor Sophy**

In gratitude for these gifts and for God's presence with us, let us bring our offerings.

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

**Offertory Prayer**

*UNISON:* How easy it is for us to be overwhelmed with the darkness of our world.  
No matter where we look, we see children who are hungry and youth in need of a loving  
community, yearning for a sense of belonging. We see a world beset with illness  
and conflicts and destruction caused by the forces of nature. We can feel so helpless.  
Yet, here we have a chance to make a difference with the gifts we give.  
How grateful we are for the opportunity to change what *is* into what *might be*.  
Thank you, God, for allowing us the discipleship of sharing the light.  
May our gifts be generous. Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Pastor Mel**

**A Communal Recitation of the Lord's Prayer**

**Pastor Mel**

*We take this time to lift up to God the prayers of our hearts  
and to pray for our world and its inhabitants.*

*You are invited to pray aloud or silently whichever version  
of the Lord's Prayer is close to your heart,  
or to follow along with the version printed below.*

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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. Do not let us fall into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

**WE ARE SENT****Closing Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful****UMH#147**

**Refrain:** All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings.

The purple headed mountains, the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky. **Refrain**

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them, every one.

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell,  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. **Refrain**

**Benediction****Pastor Sophy**

**Bulletin Cover Photograph:** New Milford UMC blanketed in a gentle snowfall. Photo shared by **Valorie Kolitz**.

**Note:** Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship online and in person 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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