



NEW MILFORD  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH



*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.*

First Sunday of Advent | 11. 29. 2020 | 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** if able and comfortable.

**Please invite** your friends to join our worship services on Facebook & share our livestream.

### **ENTRANCE & PRAISE**

 **Welcome + Announcements from Pastor Sophy**

 **Opening Song** *Lord of All Hopefulness, verse 1*

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

† **Call to Worship**

God who hears us,  
as Advent begins, we are already filled up with waiting:

**Waiting to hear the next report of bad news;  
the next difficult thing we will have to bear.**

The news is a litany of things to fear  
that fills our heads with dread.

**God who loves us,  
fill our hearts with hope instead.**

God who cares for us,  
remind us of Mary and Joseph,  
**ordinary people living in a country  
under the boot of an oppressive regime.**

They believed in your salvation.  
They held on to hope against hope.  
**God who strengthens us,  
help us to hold on to hope and hold on to you.**

God who is with us,  
awaken our hearts to sense your arriving  
**as we do the hard work of being decent and loving  
in the rough and tumble of this shared life.**

In this season of growing darkness,  
keep our eyes fixed on the pinpoints of light  
**that shine and shine and shine  
because nothing can put them out.**

 **Prayer of Invocation**

**Lord of all Hopeless, through the darkness of uncertainty, fear, challenges, and difficulties,  
your faithful love for us still shines and shines and shines. Be our light now and always, as we  
gather together to worship you and to grow in love for one another and all creation. Amen.**

 **Praise Song**      *Lord of All Hopefulness, verse 2*

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

**PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE**

 **Prayer for Illumination**

To the One who is our friend, our creator, our companion, and our comfort,  
we pray:

**May all the words we share today be conduits for grace.  
May this space that we share together become a sanctuary for our souls.  
May each moment nourish us with hope and teach our hearts to love more deeply.  
Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson**      Psalm 130: A Song of Ascents *(Inclusive Language Version)*

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord!  
God, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my voice, my cries for mercy!  
If you kept track of our sins, Lord,  
who could stand before you?  
But with you is forgiveness,  
and for this we revere you.

So I wait for you, Lord,  
my soul waits,  
and in your word I place my trust.  
My soul longs for you, Lord,  
more than sentinels long for the dawn;  
more than sentinels long for the dawn.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is abundant love  
and the fullness of deliverance.  
God will deliver Israel  
from all its failings.

*A word of God for all who chose to receive it. **Thanks be to God!***

**Listening for God's Message**      *Put Your Hope In the Lord*      Pastor Sophy

**Response Song**      *Lord of All Hopefulness, verse 3*

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

## Prayers of the People and the LORD'S Prayer

Lord of all Hopefulness,

You have taught us to seek you in the most unlikely places as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb. May we yet seek you in the midst of our struggles and our joys, in moments that fills us with hope for the future and moments when hope is dim and our faith is faint. Gracious God, hear these our prayers, which we share with you now and with one another.

*[You are invited to share your prayers in the chat or aloud in your homes]*

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of hopefulness as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

In a sweet spirit of expectant anticipation,  
we join together to pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

***Our 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.***

### Invitation to Offering

We take this time to offer our gifts to God and to one another, and to give thanks for the gifts that we have received at NMUMC through the loving work of God. Our gifts come in many forms, each beautiful and precious in their own ways: time, talent, money, prayers, kindness. We take this time to consider what we can give and to make our offerings, knowing that our investment in *this place* and *these people* is an act of hopefulness for the future we are building together.

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

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts + Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God all creators here below!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host!  
Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!  
Amen.*

### Prayer of Dedication

Richard Baur - Nov 18  
Alexa Barron - Nov 23  
Avary Noto - Dec 01

Dean Perry - Nov 22  
Mary Gunther - Nov 28  
Rebecca Williams - Dec 6

Sue Whitfield - Nov 22  
Kim Birsen - Dec 01

**Gracious God, bless these our gifts, which we humbly offer up to you today. Bless these gifts that they might be used according to your will, for it is only through your power and your grace that we can accomplish anything which is truly beautiful, loving, just, and good. We give you all thanks, all glory, and all praise, for you are the source of our hope. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH****🎵 Closing Hymn** *Lord of All Hopefulness, verse 4*

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
 whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
 be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**🦋 Benediction**

Beloveds, let's share these closing words together:

**May the creativity of our Creator sustain us in the midst of challenges.**  
**May the love of Christ of Liberator comfort us in the presence of the unknown.**  
**May the wisdom of the Holy Spirit lead us on in hopefulness,**  
**in this time and in all times, wherever we may go.**  
**Amen.**



Go now in peace to love God and one another.



**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 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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