



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 7, 2023 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | 10:00 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

Theme: Rising Strong

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome all! The house of the Creator is our gathering place today.

The feast has been prepared. The table of the Lord binds us all together.

God, who walked with our ancestors, walks among us now, and will walk with our children's children for generations to come.

We give thanks for God's presence.

In the air that we breathe, in the sound of children's voices, and the songs of our elders,

We give thanks for God's presence. Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

God of Creation, we gather today reminded that true peace and justice can only be achieved when we strive for full restoration in our relationships and communities. On this Peace with Justice Sunday, equip us to resolve conflicts and speak out against oppression in all its forms. Fill us with your Spirit to share the teachings of Jesus with all the nations for it is in his precious name that we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

UMH 77++

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-22

NT p. 127-8

SERMON

"Rising from Hatred"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(see insert)

ANTHEM

"Alleluia! Praise the Lord!"

Lois Myers Emig

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 94++

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of love and peace, you call us to the great commission with you to make disciples of all nations. Receive these gifts and bless them to restore your people. Establish peace with justice throughout the world until all your creation experiences healing and wholeness. Pour out your Spirit on those who are part of the ministries supported by this offering. May they be encouraged to be agents of peace with justice in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 15-16

LORD’S PRAYER

UMH 895

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Let There Be Peace on Earth”

UMH 431++

***SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE

GREETERS | Linda Ryder **LITURGIST** | Nancy McCallum
FELLOWSHIP | Pat & Gene Gillen

*Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for Flowers and Fellowship.
Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament
UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal TFWS: The Faith We Sing
++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn



Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor – www.jennlovallo@gmail.com - (201) 314-8442

Office: 206 East Ann Street- 570.296.6124

www.milfordmethodists.org -- milfordmethodists@gmail.com

Follow us on Instagram: @milfordmethodists
and Facebook: www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE DURING WORSHIP SERVICE
(NURSERY LOCATED AT END OF HALL IN EDUCATION WING)

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Every Sunday at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Every Sunday after Children’s Message

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL: Every Sunday at 11:30 AM following worship service

CRAFTY LADIES: Every Thursday at 9:30 AM

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

MUMC GARDEN CLUB: Monday, May 8 6PM (Hybrid)

TRUSTEES: Wednesday, May 10 7PM (Hybrid)

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Friday, May 12 6:00PM

Meet @ Ecumenical Food Pantry 321 5th St.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES: Wednesday, May 17 6:30PM (Hybrid)

VISION TEAM: Wednesday, May 24 6:30 (Hybrid)

FINANCE MEETING: Tuesday, May 23 6:00 (Online)

CHURCH COUNCIL: Tuesday, May 30 6:30 (Online)

ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY: Friday, May 12th 6:15-7:30 Our turn to serve! Contact office if you are interested in joining the team.

SKYLANDS DISTRICT PRAYER VIGIL: Prayers for a Hurting World Saturday, May 13 11AM-1PM Parsippany UMC Contact the office if you are interested in carpooling.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Monday, May 15th 6:30– 8:00PM If you’re interested in becoming a member of Milford United Methodist Church, or simply curious and eager to learn more, we in-

The **May Communion Offering** will be received in support of **Peace with Justice Sunday**. In 2021, at the height of the pandemic, United Methodists gave \$328,463 toward ministries funded by this Special Sunday! We are a generous people! In 2023, more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope in a world that desperately needs both. The United Methodist church prioritizes collaboration among nations, works to reduce the use and need for weapons and fosters equitable and durable solutions to the root causes of conflict. Half of our gifts will be directed to local ministries within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and half will support the work of The Board of Church and Society globally.