

- ◆ Please make sure your cell phones are turned off during worship, so that you can fast from texting and other distractions. Also, please refrain from bringing food and drink into the sanctuary.
- ◆ Protective face coverings will be optional for vaccinated persons. We remain considerate of one another's choices and concerns as well as those among us who can't choose vaccinations at this time. We ask that you continue to respect personal boundaries.
- ◆ We hope there are enough bulletins for everyone who comes to worship, but in case we run out, they are accessible online.

WELCOME WORDS AND SHARING

Pastor Nancy

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP (READ RESPONSIVELY)

We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

* OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see Your good works through us, give You the glory, and be moved to serve You. AMEN.

* OPENING HYMN *Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know* #163 UMH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all creation, source of every blessing: you have given us so much. As we bring our tithes and gifts to you this day, they seem so small by comparison, unless we see that we are truly called to give ourselves back to the world. May we be the salt that brings value and flavor into relationships with those around us. May we be the light that helps others find their way to your love and care. We pray all of this in the mighty name of Jesus, who came to help us see all we could be. **AMEN.**

[If you wish to support Milton United Methodist Church with your tithes and gifts, please mail them to MUMC, 1007 Church Street, Milton WV 25541. If available, you can also give through your bank. If you wish to make a gift today, there is an offering box located at the parking lot entrance sidewalk, and there are offering plates at the doors of the sanctuary.]

OFFERTORY

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:13–20 (NRSV)

MESSAGE

Pastor Nancy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Time of Silence, then praying together:

Dear God,

Sometimes we feel afraid. Give us Your spirit of power.

Sometimes we feel upset. Give us Your spirit of love.

Sometimes we feel confused. Give us Your spirit of self-control.

Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to live in us. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The funds collected in the special offering basket go to ECCHO.

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III

#15–16 UMH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Our Father, 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

* CLOSING HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

#593 UMH

* SENDING FORTH

May our love be like salt that makes life tasty and worthwhile. May our Christian living be a light to those who live in darkness. May our Christian communities be cities of light to be seen from afar as signs that God lives and works in his people, and may God bless each of us for this mission: Go now, and let the light of Christ shine on all those who live around you.

Thanks be to God!

* POSTLUDE

* You may stand if you wish.



WELCOME: Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out a yellow card that is in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We hope that you will find our church to be a place where you feel welcome and experience the presence of God in a powerful way.

SOUPER BOWL: Get your “GAME ON” in February as we help provide food items for ECCHO! It’s SOUPer Bowl month, and we encourage donations of soup, meats or sauces especially, but anything is welcome. Let’s see how much we can gather in February! Go TEAM Go!

NOISY OFFERING: Thanks for making a joyful noise last Sunday with your Noisy Offering of \$45.51. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

LENTEN STUDY: Pastor Nancy will be doing a weekly Lenten study using the series “Finding Jesus in the Psalms” by Barb Roose. This study provides an interpretation of the Psalms with real life stories and connecting the context of King David’s life with Jesus’ last words on the cross. There is a devotional guide if you wish to have your own copy, as well as a video piece which she will share on Thursdays at 12:30 PM with discussion. If you want, bring your lunch at noon and share some time at the table before study time begins. We will begin on Thursday, February 23, for 6 weeks.

FREE BOOKS: “The Life and Teachings of Jesus of Nazareth” is a little book that leads one through exactly what the title describes. We have them available to you and encourage you to gift one to someone who might find it worthwhile in their new year also. Since it was free to us, it is free to you. Take and share as long as there are copies and we might even get more if needed. The small brown books are located by the sanctuary entrance and usher areas.

Continuing Prayer Concerns <i>Recently added names are in Italics.</i>		
<u>Nursing & Assisted Living Centers:</u>		
<i>Paramount:</i> Anna Jean Blackwood		
Others: Our elected officials; Sunday school (children, youth, & teachers); military personnel; churches & ministers; missionaries; Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball; DS Rev. Joe Hill; Pastor Nancy White; 130 th Unit of WV Air Nat’l Guard; and		
Alex S.	Debbie R.	Robin
Alice	Frank U.	Roger W.
Angela Gay K.	J. D.	Rose
Austyn H.	Jacklynn V.	Stephanie J.
Avery	John M.	Steven L.
Barbara	Ken H.	Terry B.
Becky S.	Lin L.	Terry P.
Brooks S.	Lisa P.	Tim C.
Carlous	Millie	Tootie
Cheryl	Patrick	Zack

