



MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1242 WHITTEMORE RD
MIDDLEBURY, CT 06762
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG

Middlebury Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

*all those who are able please stand

Our worship begins with the Prelude.

Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Audrey Finn

INTROIT

Adult Choir

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CALL TO WORSHIP (Poem by David Adam)

Liturgist

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus,

People: Come as King.

Leader: Rule in our hearts,

People: Come as love.

Leader: Rule in our minds,

People: Come as peace.

Leader: Rule in our actions,

People: Come as power.

Leader: Rule in our days,

People: Come as joy.

Leader: Rule in our darkness,

People: Come as light.

Leader: Rule in our bodies,

People: Come as health.

Leader: Rule in our labors,

People: Come as hope.

Leader: Thy Kingdome come

People: Among us.

***HYMN**

The King Shall Come

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #201

INVOCATION

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 and ever. Amen.

[We use "Father" and "trespasses," but please use whatever words bring you closest to God.]

CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Isaiah 12:2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom or kept watch for your coming. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

(Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! The past is behind us. The future is before us. The moment of new beginnings is now. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.

Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Pilgrim Hymnal (red) #513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Church School Children **Prayer (Unison)**

Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, help us to hope. Increase our hope when it is small, awaken it when it is dormant, confirm it when it is wavering, strengthen it when it is weak, and raise it up when it is overthrown. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen

Children pre-K through 7th grade may exit through the back doors of the sanctuary and meet in the Social Hall for Sunday School

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

SERMON
Unexpected Company

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

***HYMN**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #111

JOYS, CONCERNS, & PASTORAL PRAYER

Prayer requests will be received from the congregation. Please be mindful worship is livestreamed, so we advise caution on using last names to preserve people's privacy.

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

12th Century Chant, arr. Alice Parker
Adult Choir

***Doxology in Unison**

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #515

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept our offering in union with Christ's offering for us. Confirm in us the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints. Though our offering and our actions, may we testify to Christ's saving love. Amen.

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) # 103

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

arr. Mark Segal

*Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall after worship for
fellowship and refreshments*

DOING GOD'S WORK

The Congregation, *Ministers in the World*
Church Officers & Members of our Boards & Committees

Staff:

The Rev. Katrina Manzi, *Minister*

Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*

David Obarowski, *Organist*

Valerie Beard, *Faith Formation Coordinator*

Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*

Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*