



**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

**January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

*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

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Michele Finn

INTROIT

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless blow, and all the earth lies dead and drear.
And yet God's love is not withdrawn; His life within the keen air
breathes; His beauty paints the crimson dawn, and clothes the boughs
with glittering wreaths.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: In God alone we take refuge,

People: We will never be put to shame.

Leader: The one who formed us is the one who gathers us here.

People: We will praise our Creator forever.

INVOCATION

Liturgist

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,

For ever 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)

Rev. Manzi

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be
what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting
your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and
abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

(Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(based on Romans 5:8, Colossians 1:13-14, Romans 5:1)

Hear the good news! God demonstrates love for us in this way: while we
were still sinners, Christ died for us. He has rescued us from the
dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the beloved
Son, in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins. Therefore,
since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Friends, hear and believe the good news
of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*Children preK-8th grade may exit through the back doors of the
sanctuary and meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Rev. Manzi

Nehemiah 8:1-10

all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate.
They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which
the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the
law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear
with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He
read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning
until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who
could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the
book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had
been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema,
Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah,
Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and
Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all
the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened
it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,
and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands.
Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to
the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai,

Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Luke 4:14-30

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of

the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON

Jesus' First Sermon

MUSICAL OFFERING

Be Thou My Vision Trad. Irish, arr. Lee Burswold
Austin Zold, violin

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Katrina will ask if there are any prayer requests from the congregation. Please feel free to share your prayer concerns, joys and witness to your brothers and sisters. She will also share requests that she received prior to today's service.

OFFERING AND DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

***Doxology in Unison**

Pilgrim Hymnal #515

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Gracious God, bless these gifts that we have given as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors, that they may bring closer to fulfillment your reign of peace and love; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN**

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Pilgrim Hymnal #269

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

O God! who givest the winter's cold, as well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold, and keep us through life's wintry days.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision

arr Bethany K. Smith

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

269

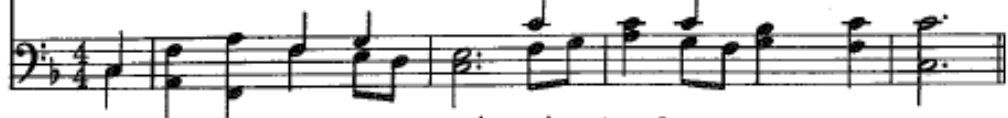
Timothy Dwight, 1752-1817

ST. THOMAS S.M.

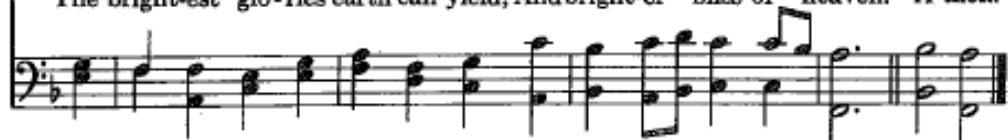
Williams' "New Universal Psalmist," 1770



1 I love thy king - dom, Lord, The house of thine a - bode,
 2 I love thy Church, O God; Her walls be - fore thee stand,
 3 For her my tears shall fall, For her my prayers as - cend,
 4 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways,
 5 Sure as thy truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be given



The Church our blest Re - deem - er saved With his own pre - cious blood.
 Dear as the ap - ple of thine eye, And grav - en on thy hand.
 To her my cares and toils be given Till toils and cares shall end.
 Her sweet com - mun - ion, sol - emn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.
 The bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, And bright - er bliss of heaven. A - men.



NATURE AND UNITY