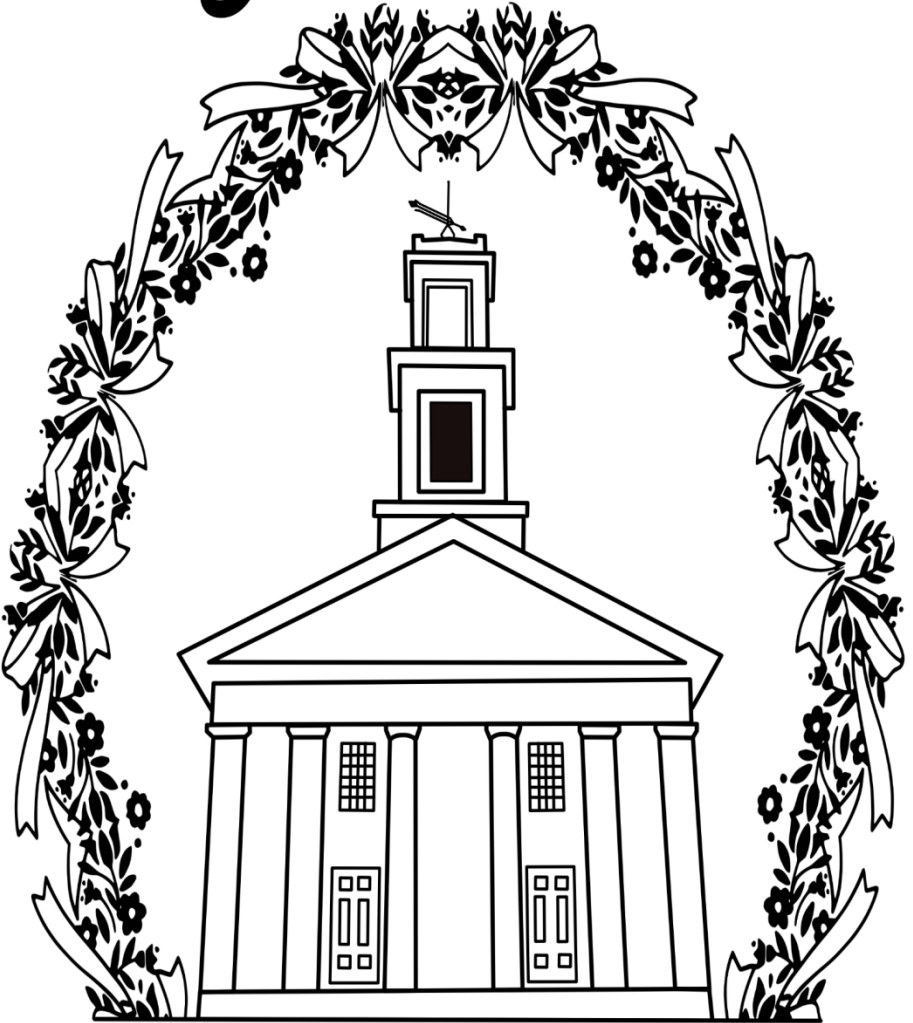


# ADVENT



**MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG**

**Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
December 1, 2024  
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. Gene Roberson

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brittany Romaniello

**INTROIT**

Adult Choir

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending be;  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God of our salvation, for you we wait.

**People: Night and day we pray for your return**

Leader: Come and fulfill your promise to us

**People: Come and deliver your people**

**\*HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #103

**INVOCATION**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (Based on Luke 21:25-36)

**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** (Based on Luke 3:5-6)

Hear the good news! Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain made low, and the crooked made straight, and the rough made smooth, and all flesh shall see that salvation of God. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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 THE ADVENT WREATH** Church School Children

**Prayer (Unison)**

*(Paraphrase of part of John Calvin's Psalm 25 commentary)*

**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.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

### **Luke 21:25-36**

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

## **SERMON**

When Things Fall Apart

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

**\*HYMN**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence      Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #107

**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      Trad. Chant, arr. Alice Parker  
Adult Choir

**\*Doxology in Unison**

Sung to the tune O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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.  
All praises to the Son who sets us free,  
with Father, Spirit, through eternity. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

**God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Communion is open to all, including children, who wish to grow in faith in Jesus Christ*

**Invitation**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

Leader: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them up to the Lord**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

## **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.]

## **Words of Institution**

### **Distribution of the Elements**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)**

**God of hope, we give you thanks that you have fed us in this meal, united us with Christ and with believers in every time and place. Keep us ever watchful and faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN**

We Hail You, God's Anointed New Century Hymnal (Black) #104

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. John Schaffner

*Please join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments.*



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**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*

Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*

Sara Hubbard, *Faith Formation Volunteer Coordinator*

Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*

Sarah Kwashnak, *Office Assistant*