



*"No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here"*

Middlebury Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

October 27, 2024

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday**

**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

March on “A Mighty Fortress”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Ellen Aronheim

INTROIT

Adult Choir

Come, bless the Creator of the universe:

Lift up your hearts to the holy place,

And bless the Rock of our Salvation.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 124:8 & Psalm 46)

(All orders of worship authored by John Calvin begin with the reading of Psalm 124:8)

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. Amen.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

Leader: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

Leader: “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #363

(Hymn text and tune by Martin Luther)

INVOCATION (From the 1526 *German Mass* by Martin Luther)

Leader: Almighty God, Protector of all who put their hope in you, without whose grace nobody is strong, nor counts anything before you; increase your rich mercy upon us, that through your holy inspiration, we may think the things that are right, and through your power may accomplish the same. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray saying...

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 (From the 1566 *Form of Ecclesiastical Prayers* by John Calvin)

Leader: My brothers, let each of you present himself before the face of the Lord with confession of his faults and sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

(A prayer by Martin Luther)

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be

merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(From the 1539 Strassburg liturgy by Martin Bucer based on 1 Timothy 1)

This is certainly true and a very precious word; Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let everyone truly confess with Saint Paul in his heart and believe in Christ. Thus, I promise you in his name the forgiveness of all your sins and I declare you to be loosed of your sins on earth, and that you are loosed of them also in heaven, forever. 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Deacon: Stephanie Tiso

Georgia Kay Wells
Henry Quinn Wells
Elijah Thomas Wells

Congregational Welcome (Unison)

With joy we welcome you into Christ's Church, Georgia, Henry, and Elijah. Your baptism is not the end but the beginning of a journey of discovering how much God loves you. This is our blessing to you: "Grow in grace and wisdom and do not fear, for the Lord is with you. Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God."

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

(This prayer by Huldrych Zwingli was read before every meeting of the scholars in Zurich who translated the Bible from the original languages into German. This 1530 Zurich Bible was the first complete Protestant translation of the Bible, finished four years before Martin Luther's translation.)

Leader: O merciful God, heavenly Father! Because your word is a candle to our feet and a light that should illuminate our way, we pray that through Christ, who is the true light of the whole world, you will open and enlighten our hearts that we should clearly and purely understand your Word and form our entire lives accordingly, that we do not displease your exulted majesty, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:7-9

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and

said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

Seeing and Believing

***HYMN**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #335

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

Heaven’s Jubilee

G.T. Spears, arr. A. M. Pace

Thomas Zold, tuba

***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)**

(A prayer by Martin Luther)

O Lord, come to me and use my bread, silver and gold. How very well they are spent if I spend them in your service. Amen.

***HYMN**

We Limit Not the Truth of God

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #259

***BENEDICTION**

(John Calvin, John Knox, Martin Luther, and other reformers ended worship services with the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26)
Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Adult Choir

Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on “A Mighty Fortress”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

Please join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments.

About Reformation Sunday

On October 31st (the Eve of All Saints’ Day/All Hallows’ Eve/Halloween) in 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk, Catholic priest, and professor of theology, nailed his “95 Theses” on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This act, calling for debate on issues of corruption in the Catholic Church, is traditionally viewed as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Protestant churches, particularly those of the Lutheran and Reformed traditions, typically commemorate this day on the last Sunday in October. Our worship service this morning draws on prayers written by various Protestant reformers.

About Today’s Music

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (originally in German), is the best-known hymn by Protestant reformer Martin Luther. He wrote the lyrics and the hymn tune around 1527, inspired by Psalm 46.

Our closing hymn, “We Limit Not the Truth of God”, a hymn by Englishman George Ransom, is based on Pastor John Robinson’s parting message to the Pilgrims who sailed to the New World in 1620.

A Prayer for Beginning a New Day

(Prayer by John Calvin)

My God, my Father and my Savior, you have been pleased to preserve me by your grace through the night and you have brought me to this new day. Grant that I may use it entirely in your service, that I may think, say, and do nothing but to please you and to obey your holy will. May all my actions be to the glory of your name and to the service of others. And just as you cause the sun to shine on the world to give physical light, let your Holy Spirit illumine my mind to guide me in the way of righteousness. In everything I do, let my goal and intention always be to walk reverently and to honor and serve you, relying only on your blessing for my well-being, and undertaking only what is pleasing to you. Amen.



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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*