



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

**Middlebury Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**September 29, 2024**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

\*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**

Come Thou Almighty King

arr. Charles Callahan

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Liturgist: Guy Ferrelli

**INTROIT**

Adult Choir

Be still and know that I am God

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 19)**

Liturgist

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect,

**People: Reviving the soul**

Leader: The decrees of the Lord are sure,

**People: Making wise the simple**

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right

**People: Rejoicing the heart**

Leader: The commandment of the Lord is clear,

**People: Enlightening the eyes**

Leader: The fear of the Lord is pure,

**People: Enduring forever**

Leader: The Lord is our rock and our redeemer

**People: Let us worship God**

**\*HYMN**

Come, Thou Almighty King

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #246

**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 Romans 6:3, 6)**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good in all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near. Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

(Time for individual silent confession)

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Romans 5:5)**

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. 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.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Deacon: Janine Sullivan-Wiley  
Andrew James Fabian  
Molly Renée Fabian

**Congregational Welcome (Unison)**

**With joy we welcome you into Christ’s Church, Andrew and Molly. 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.” Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,’ to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”

### **Mark 9:38-50**

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and

to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

A True Christian Community

## **\*HYMN**

O God of Earth and Altar

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #436

## **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**

Bound for the Promised Land

American Traditional, arr. Ed Harris

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)** (based on Psalm 19)  
**Your gift of life, O God, is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey to our lips. Take these gifts of our lives: refine and purify them, and let them before the world a sign of your goodness and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

Sent Forth By God's Blessing    New Century Hymnal (Black) #76

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Go forth in joy. Sing and dance and serve Him.

**POSTLUDE**

Voluntary

Henry Purcell

*Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall 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*