

**NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE
OR WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY
YOU ARE
WELCOME & HERE**



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG**

Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
July 6, 2025
Fourth 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. Laura Bergquist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INTROIT

Adult Choir

America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord

People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation

Leader: Let us come into the Lord's presence with thanksgiving

**People: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord with songs of
praise**

Leader: The Lord is a great king, who rules over heaven and earth

People: Let us worship before the Lord our maker

***HYMN**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #8

INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Matthew 22:37-40)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Loving god, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and with one another; through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Romans 8:15-17)

Hear the good news! Scripture tells us you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When you cry, "Abba! Father!" It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Genesis 4:1-10

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the

Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen, your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground!

Galatians 6:1-16

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor’s work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who try to

compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

The Law of Christ

***HYMN**

Community of Christ

New Century Hymnal (Black) #314

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

Gaudeamus Hodie (Be Joyful This Day)

Natalie Sleeth

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)**

God of grace and goodness, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we receive from you, in Christ and in creation. Bless the ministries of our congregation. Surprise us by what you

accomplish through us as we sow seeds of generosity in the gifts we bring. 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 abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation

you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your

people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we

may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue

forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

The National Hymn (God of Our Fathers) Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #433

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light.

Protect us, by thy might, Great god, our King. Amen.

POSTLUDE

America

arr. Dennis Eliot

*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*