



**MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG**

Middlebury Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after the 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

I Stand at the Threshold

J.S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Ellen Aronheim

INTROIT

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Cherub Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: God calls us to seek justice:

People: Let Christ's love for the poor and hungry fill the earth.

Leader: God calls us to show kindness,

**People: Let Christ's light shine in places of brokenness and
despair.**

Leader: God calls us to walk humbly in the Spirit,

**People: Let us join the work of the kingdom in humility and
hope.**

***HYMN**

Called as Partners

New Century Hymnal (Black) #495

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 Matthew 22:37-40)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

O Lord our God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustice and discord. You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all.

Forgive us, O Lord. By the power of your Spirit, turn us to your will and give us integrity of heart, that we may shine forth the light of your salvation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on 1 Peter 2:9-10)

Hear the good news: scripture tells us “you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order to proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” People of God, all of us together have received God’s mercy in Jesus Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made people of God’s covenant. 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.

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

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

What Does the Lord Require?

***HYMN**

Blest Are They

(see back cover)

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

I Trust in the Lord

Joseph Martin

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 Life, from you all lovingkindness, justice, and mercy flow. Bless these gifts so that acts of kindness, justice, and mercy flow from them, too. Bless our lives so the world may see in us signs of your kingdom in the world, in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN**

Thank Our God

New Century Hymnal (black) #397

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Twofold Amen

Adult Choir

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

Annual Meeting following worship in the sanctuary

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*
Valerie Beard, *Faith Formation Coordinator*
Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*
Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*

Blest Are They

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Gsus Leader or All G D C

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

Dsus D7 Gsus G Gsus G

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause of me. Re - joice, be glad;

D C Dsus D Gsus G

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain All C D7 G D Em G C G

Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you;

Am A D C D7 Em Em7

ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!

C Dsus D C G

Yours is the king - dom of God!

This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), the opening portion of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Similar words of blessing also occur in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-23). Both sets of sayings reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God's ways.