



*"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 24, 2023  
Seventeenth 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**

Air (from “Water Music”)

G.F. Handel

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** Liturgist: Stephanie Tiso

**INTROIT**

Adult Choir

Woke Up This Mornin’

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist

Leader: Open your hearts to God’s loving mercy.

**People: Lord, come into our hearts this day.**

Leader: Having received God’s mercy, bring that love to others.

**People: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in  
compassion.**

Leader: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

**People: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which you  
pour into our lives. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

Fairest Lord Jesus

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #227

**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**

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

**God of abundance, forgive us for embracing a worldview that capitalizes on scarcity. Help us to know that you have given us enough for our journey. You have created us wonderfully and uniquely. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with our neighbor when we are called to love them. Help us to embrace how you have made us as individuals who may bring our singular gifts to our common life. Amen.** (Time for individual silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **\*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 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**

### **Psalms 105:1-6, 37-41**

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

### **Matthew 20:1-16**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others

standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

## **SERMON**

Pastor Chris Cole

Grace

## **\*HYMN**

How Gentle God’s Commands

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #76

## **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)**

**Great God, please receive our gifts for the glory of your name and the blessing of your people. May we be dedicated stewards of your abundance and use these gifts for the benefit of your kingdom. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #269

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

God Be With You 'til We Meet Again

**POSTLUDE**

God Be With You

arr Marshal and Mary McDonald

*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*  
The Rev. Shannan Hudgins, *Sabbatical Pastor*  
Pastor Chris Cole, *Sabbatical Pastor*  
Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*  
David Obarowski, *Organist*  
Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*  
Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*  
Sarah Kwashnak, *Interim Office Assistant*