

**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter**

*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

Good Christian Men Rejoice and Sing! arr. Gilbert Martin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Charis Hubbard

INTROIT

Adult Choir

Sing praises, give thanks to the Lord who is with us in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on 1 Peter 1:3-9) Liturgist

Leader: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ

People: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

Leader: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

People: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials

Leader: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

People: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

***HYMN**

Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing! Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #184

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 8:26)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Holy God, we confess that we have not been faithful witnesses to the resurrection. Jesus stands among us in word, sacrament, and neighbor, but we fail to recognize him. Jesus reigns over us as the risen Lord of all, but we fail to honor him. Jesus moves within us through the work of your Spirit, but we fail to respond. Forgive us, God of grace. Keep us in your mercy, guide us by your Word, and fill us with your Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. 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
Callie Elizabeth Hubbard
Evelyn Fay Hubbard
Emilia Jane Hubbard

Congregational Welcome (Unison)

With joy we welcome you into Christ's Church, Callie, Emilia, and Evelyn. 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.

***HYMN**

I Was There to Hear

New Century Hymnal (Black) #351

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

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets,

that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Luke 24:33-49

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

SERMON

Snacks and Resurrection

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

***HYMN**

Jesus, Sovereign Savior

New Century Hymnal (Black) #255

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 (Let Us Rejoice Today)
Adult Choir

Natalie Sleeth

***Doxology in Unison**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

God our Maker, you have filled the world with abundant blessings. We offer our gifts to you, knowing they are part of your abundance. Bless them and use them to bring hope and new life in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN**

Christ Rose

New Century Hymnal (Black) #239

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

God be with you 'till we meet again:
By His councils guide, uphold, you,
With His sheep securely fold you:
God be with you 'till we meet again. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Men Rejoice and Sing!

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

*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, *Interim Office Assistant*