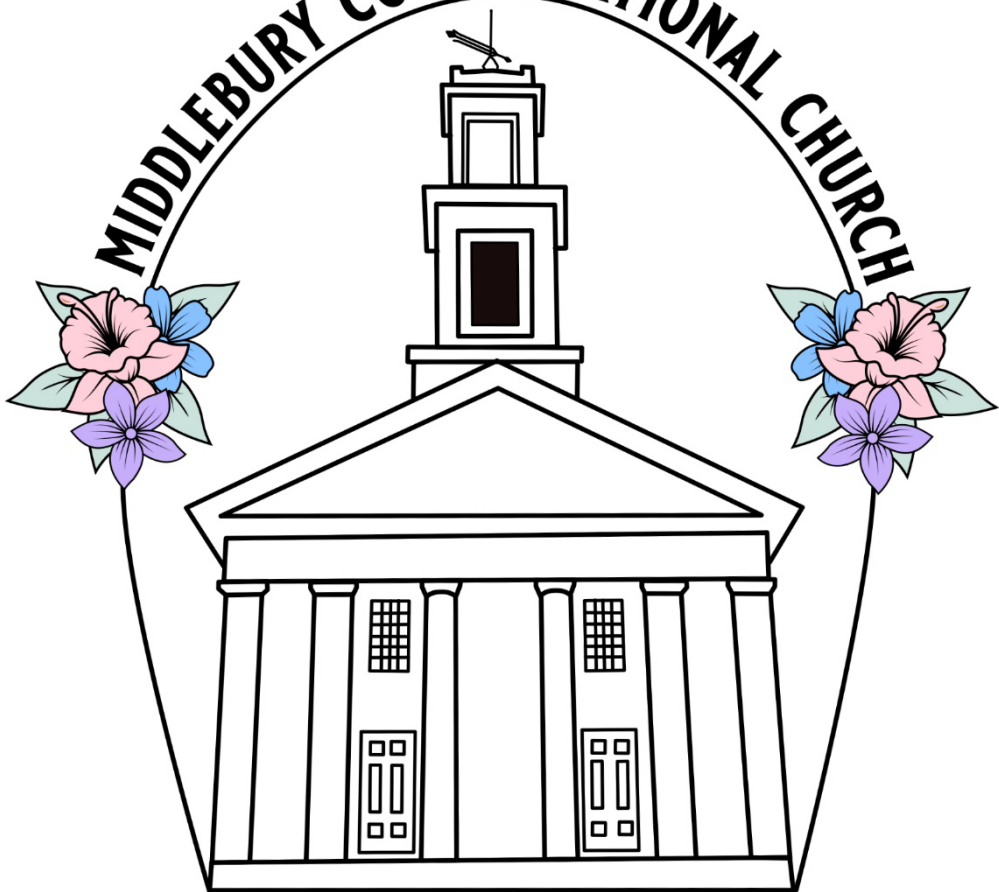


EASTERTIDE

MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG

**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
May 5, 2024
Sixth 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

Jesus Shall Reign

arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Guy Ferrelli

INTROIT

Adult Choir

With joy, with praise, with love and peace,
We come into the presence of God, our Creator.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: Let us sing to the Lord a new song.

People: for God has done marvelous things.

Leader: Let us make known the Lord's victory,

People: for God's steadfast love covers the whole earth.

Leader: Let us sing joyful praises,

People: and join all creation to worship God's holy name.

***HYMN**

Jesus Shall Reign

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #202

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 8:34)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new by God's generous grace. 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.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Acts 10:21-48

So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?" Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when

suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.”

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

SERMON
God is on the Move

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

***HYMN**

In Christ, There Is No East or West Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #414

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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

Adult Choir

***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)**

Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world you love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. 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)

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #199

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Twofold Amen

POSTLUDE

Crown Him With Many Crowns

arr. 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*
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*