

**DOING GOD'S WORK**

The Congregation, *Ministers in the World*  
Church Officers & Members of our Boards & Committees

Rev. Katrina Manzi, *Minister*

Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*

David Obarowski, *Organist*

Valerie Beard, *Christian Education Coordinator*

Jeanine Bonaventure, *Office Administrator*

Diane Barnard, *Asst. Treasurer*

Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*

Howie Gay, *Sexton*



*Wherever you are on your journey . . .  
you are welcome here.*

**MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

*United Church of Christ*

*The Green*

*1242 Whittemore Rd.*

*Middlebury, Connecticut 06762*

*(203) 758-2671*

*[www.middleburyucc.org](http://www.middleburyucc.org)*

Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

September 22, 2019  
Fifteenth 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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Malcolm Todt

INTROIT

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord  
Adult Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord  
People: **Praise the lord, O my soul!**  
Leader: I will praise the Lord as long as I live  
People: **Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help**  
Leader: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish  
People: **Happy are those whose help is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth**

\*GATHERING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #14

INVOCATION

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,  
For ever and ever. Amen.  
[We use "Father" and "trespasses," but please use whatever words bring you closest to God.]

CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Romans 3:23-24) Rev. Manzi

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have not heeded your commandments. 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 one another; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Isaiah 43:1)

Hear the good news! "Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name and you are mine." Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are redeemed and forgiven. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI

Pilgrim Hymnal #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'S MOMENT

Rev. Manzi

*Children preK-6<sup>th</sup> grade may go to the Social Hall  
for Sunday School*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Rev. Manzi

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an

image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

#### **Acts 7:35-41**

“It was this Moses whom they rejected when they said, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ and whom God now sent as both ruler and liberator through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. He led them out, having performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years. This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up a prophet for you from your own people as he raised me up.’ He is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living oracles to give to us. Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him; instead, they pushed him aside, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, ‘Make gods for us who will lead the way for us; as for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.’ At that time they

made a calf, offered a sacrifice to the idol, and reveled in the works of their hands.

#### **SERMON** **Images and Idols**

Rev. Manzi

#### **\*HYMN**

Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #322

#### **Prayer on Behalf of the Congregation**

*Katrina will ask if there are any prayer requests from the congregation. Please feel free to share your prayer concerns, joys and witness to your brothers and sisters.*

#### **OFFERTORY:** **Offertory Music**

Wondrous Love

Adult Choir

Steve Pilkington

#### **\*Doxology in Unison**

Pilgrim Hymnal #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. Amen

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

**Creator God, you are our provider. We offer all that we have and all that we are to you because we belong to you. Bless these gifts, and empower us, your church, that through the work of your Spirit, we may be a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat. Through Christ, our shield and our stronghold. Amen**

#### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #228

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

#### **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

#### **POSTLUDE**

*Please join us in the social room after the service  
for a time of fellowship and coffee.*