



*"No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here"*

**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
November 17, 2024
Twenty-Sixth 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

Voluntary

Charles Zeuner

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janine Sullivan-Wiley

INTROIT

Adult Choir

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Exodus 20:1-2)

Leader: When Moses gathered the people of Israel, God said:

People: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

Leader: We gather in this place to be with one another, to hear each other’s voices and experience together the presence of God, who continues to call us and bring us out of the places of our bondage. Let us worship God, together.

***HYMN**

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #444

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 Isaiah 1:18)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

We come to you, God of Creation and Connection, mindful that we have kept ourselves apart from one another – from conversation, from breaking bread together, from seeing and hearing and sensing the presence of one other human being – at the very times when your gift of community is meant to lift us up and encourage us. We overlook the markers that lead us on the path you set out for us, and believe we can do it all ourselves. Forgive us in our confusion, and help us as we resolve once again to walk together in your light. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Romans 8:15-17)

You did not receive a spirit of bondage to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Through our common inheritance, we are accepted and redeemed as members, together, of God’s family. 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

Isaiah 6:1-12

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land."

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he

opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

SERMON

The Rev. Matt McCaffrey

Provoke One Another

***HYMN**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #273

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'm Gonna Sing!

Maurice Gardner

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)**

For all good gifts we give you thanks, Lord of our being and Light of our lives. May the wisdom and insight of your Holy Spirit imbue them with power and strength to bring hope, to encourage gathering, to kindle in us a renewed spirit of

connection within our community and in this world. For the love of Jesus, we offer it up to you. Amen.

***HYMN**

Now Is the Time Approaching New Century Hymnal (Black) #609

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Go your way rejoicing, God is with you.
He will guide your way. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Now Is the Time Approaching

arr. James Mansfield

Please join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments.

About Our Guest Preacher

The Rev. Matt McCaffrey is our guest preacher today. He lives in Cheshire with his wife, the Rev. Alison McCaffrey, and their Shelties Fiona and Ainsley. Music, cooking, and our wider church fellowship are among his many interests.



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DOING GOD'S WORK

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

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Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*

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Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*

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