

# ADVENT



MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG

**Middlebury Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**December 7, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

\*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**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry                      arr. Emma Lou Diemer

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Liturgist

**INTROIT**

Adult Choir

"Comfort, comfort O my people, tell of peace," thus says our God.  
For the herald's voice is calling in the desert near and far,  
Bidding us to make repentance for Messiah's holy reign.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness,

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**People: Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and  
hill be made low**

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people  
shall see it together.

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord. Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry      Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #115

**INVOCATION**

**CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Matthew 3:2-3)**

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

**God of the ages, through the prophets and apostles you have challenged to lay aside the works of darkness and prepare for your new creation. We confess that we continue to cling to our sinful ways – greed and lust, abuse and waste, envy and strife. Forgive us, God. By your Spirit, lead us to live in a way that honors you, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ our Savior, who is coming in glory to reign. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Isaiah 40:1-2)**

**Hear the good news! Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Her sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid. 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.**

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Church School Children**

### **Prayer (Unison)**

**Eternal God, you offer rest for our hearts and peace for our souls. Give us the grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

### **Isaiah 35:1-10**

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;**

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return

and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Matthew 11:2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**SERMON**  
The Gospel of Life

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

**\*HYMN**  
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #107

## **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**

Comfort Ye

Michael Barrett

Adult Choir

## **\*Doxology in Unison**

(Sung to the tune for "O Come, O Come Emmanuel")

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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O  
Israel. Amen.

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

**As we prepare, O God, for the festival of Christ's birth, help us to give in expectation of his return. May our gifts be used to prepare the world for Christ's coming, when all creation shall sing your praise. 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)**

**God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread and cup of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of Man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN**

**We Hail You God's Anointed** New Century Hymnal (Black) #104

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, great news of joy You Bring.  
Amen.

### **POSTLUDE**

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

arr. Jason Payne

*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, *Office Assistant*