



**MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG**

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

**Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
February 23, 2025  
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

\*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**

God, Our Author and Creator

arr. Gilbert Martin

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Liturgist

**\*INTROIT**

Jesus Loves Me

Cherub Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 107:1, 10, 13-15)

Liturgist

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord for God is good

**People: God's steadfast love endures forever**

Leader: Some sat in darkness and gloom

**People: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble**

Leader: The Lord brought them out and broke their bonds asunder

**People: The Lord saved them in their distress**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord for God's steadfast love

**People: Give thanks for God's wonderful works to humankind**

**\*HYMN**

God, Our Author and Creator New Century Hymnal (Black) #530

**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 Luke 6:35)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.**  
(Time for individual silent confession)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Based on Luke 6:35-39)

Hear the good news! As children of the Most High God through our Lord Jesus Christ we have received grace in good measure – spilling out and running over. 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.

*Children Pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

### **Luke 6:27-38**

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good,

and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**SERMON**

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

God’s Love and Our Love

**\*HYMN**

Child of God

Insert

**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**

Go Down, Moses

arr. Roger Emerson

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)**

**Loving God, accept all we offer you this day. Lead us to love you with all our heart, and to love all people with your perfect love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Fourfold Amen

**POSTLUDE**

God, Our Author and Creator

arr. Dale Wood

*Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall after worship for  
fellowship and refreshments*

## **About Today's Music**

Our anthem, “Go Down, Moses” is sing in honor of Black History Month. One of the better-known black spirituals, “Go Down” calls for the freedom of “every man”. The song, “Child of God”, was written by Yale graduate Mark Miller, a composer, music professor and Minister of Music. A member of the black community, much of his music centers on social justice themes.



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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*