

**NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE
OR WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY
YOU ARE
WELCOME & HERE**



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG**

**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
November 16, 2025
Twenty-Third 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

Come, Thou Almighty King

arr. Richard Blake

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INTROIT

Adult Choir

Praise the Lord! Praise His name. Praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 98:4-6)

Liturgist

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous songs and sing praises.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

People: with the lyre and the sound of melody.

Leader: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

People: make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Almighty King

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #246

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 Romans 8:39)

CONFESSION (UNISON)

Merciful God, with constant reminders on every side that you have commanded us to love our neighbor as we love you, we are sometimes paralyzed, sometimes indecisive, sometimes unable to act as we know we must. We confess our weakness in rising to the moment; our willingness to let screens and the noises of self-interest distract us; our unwillingness to believe that loving you is as simple as we are taught. Forgive us, God, and help us to trust that generosity and care are not zero-sum values in the web of care you weave. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Psalm 145:13-14)

Our God is faithful in all words, and gracious in all deeds. God upholds all who are failing, and raises up all who are bowed down. Accept your forgiveness, and be at peace. 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

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be

brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

SERMON

The Rev. Matt McCaffrey

The Genuine Article

***HYMN**

God, Speak to Me

New Century Hymnal (Black) #531

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 Will Rise

Chris Tomlin, arr. Craig Courtney

Valerie Beard, Christopher Zold, Len Beard

***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)**

Upon these gifts, offered generously and without strings, we ask your blessing, bountiful God. May they empower your church's people to move through this troubled earth bringing love where there is hate, connection where there is alienation,

and light where there is darkness. We let them go and lift them up for Jesus' sake. Amen.

***HYMN**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #267

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Adult Choir

Thine the power, Thine the glory, through the ages evermore.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

arr. John Dixon

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

The Rev. Matt McCaffrey

Rev. Matt McCaffrey is a UCC pastor who lives in Cheshire with his spouse Rev. Alison, and their Shelties Ainsley and Fiona. He served as an interim ministry specialist before his retirement, and most recently was a Moderator for the Town of Cheshire's general elections.



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