

**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
October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

*all those who are able please stand

About Reformation Sunday

On October 31 (the Eve of All saints' Day/All Hallows' Eve/Halloween) in 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk, Catholic priest, and professor of theology, nailed his "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This act, calling for debate on issues of corruption in the Catholic Church, is traditionally viewed as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Protestant churches, particularly those of the Lutheran and Reformed traditions, typically commemorate this day on the last Sunday in October. Our worship service this morning draws on prayers written by various Protestant reformers and Puritans.

Our worship begins with the Prelude.

Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INTROIT

Youth Choir

Do Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

(All orders of worship authored by John Calvin begin with the reading of Psalm 124:8)

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. Amen.

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #363

INVOCATION

(Prayer by Myles Coverdale. Coverdale was an English Reformer whose 1535 Coverdale Bible was the first full translation of the entire Bible into modern English.)

Lord God Almighty, we beg you genuinely to illuminate our minds with your Holy Spirit. Increase the strength of our faith daily. Increase our assurance of hope in your promises. And increase the fervor of our love toward you and our neighbors, to the glory and praise of your holy name. Amen.

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

(From the 1566 Form of Ecclesiastical Prayers by John Calvin)
My brothers, let each of you present himself before the face of the Lord with confession of his faults and sins.

CONFESSION (UNISON)

(Prayer by Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, author of the first editions of the Book of Common Prayer, and chief reformer of the Church of England)

Leader: Father of heaven, Son of God, Redeemer of the world, and Holy Spirit who proceeds from them both, three persons and one God – have mercy on me, a miserable sinner.

People: I have offended heaven and earth, more than my tongue can express.

Leader: So where do I go, and where do I flee for relief? I am ashamed to lift up my eyes to heaven, and in earth I find no refuge.

People: So what do I do? Lose hope? Give up? God forbid.

Leader: O God, you are merciful. You never turn away anyone who comes to you for help. So I run to you. I humble myself before you.

People: My sins are great, but have mercy on me for your great mercy.

Leader: You did not become a man for our small offenses, You did not give up your Son to death just for small sins, but for all and the greatest sins of the world, so sinners could return to you in their hearts – as I am doing right now.

People: So have mercy on me, O Lord. Although my sins are great, yet your mercy is greater.

Leader: I crave nothing, O Lord, on my own account. This is for your name's sake, to make it holy, and for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.

People: Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(From the 1539 Strasbourg liturgy by Martin Bucer based on 1 Timothy 1. Bucer was an influential reformer in Strasbourg and in his later years worked with Thomas Cranmer to revise the Book of Common Prayer in England.)

This is certainly true and a very precious word; Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let everyone truly confess with Saint Paul in his heart and believe in Christ. Thus, I promise you in his name the forgiveness of all your sins and I declare you to be loosed of your sins on earth, and that you are loosed of them also in heaven, forever. Amen.

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

*(Prayer by Peter Martyr Vermigli. Vermigli was an Italian
Augustinian priest and scholar who renounced his vows and fled
Italy during the Reformation. He eventually joined Thomas
Cranmer to build the Church of England, revise the Book of
Common Prayer, and teach at Oxford.)*

We give you our most heartfelt thanks, O most gracious and
almighty God, that you have given us the ability to safely and
without danger gather together in your name within this holy place.
Together we desire that you would inspire our hearts with the Holy
Spirit, that I may utter your holy mysteries, and also that believers
here would faithfully receive those things which will be said. And
all this we pray to the glory of your name through our Lord Jesus
Christ your most dear beloved son. Amen.

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Psalms 34:1-7

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant,

so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi
Self Righteousness versus True Righteousness

***HYMN**

We Limit Not the Truth of God Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #259

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

Great Is thy Faithfulness arr. Graig Courtney
Adult Choir

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)**

(From a poem by Puritan poet Anne Bradstreet, the first writer in the North American colonies to be published.)

A humble, faithful life, O Lord, forever let me walk; let my obedience testify, my praise lies not in talk. Accept, O Lord, my simple gift, for more I cannot give; what you bestow I will restore, for of your alms I live. Amen.

***HYMN**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #4

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Adult Choir

From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue! Amen.

POSTLUDE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

arr. Fred Bock

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

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Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*

David Obarowski, *Organist*

Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*

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