



**MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING
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 1, 2026
Fourth 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

Voluntary Before Service

Charles Zeuner

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Sal Sena

INTROIT (Micah 6:8)

Adult Choir

What does the Lord require of you?

To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: God calls us to seek justice:

People: Let Christ's love for the poor and hungry fill the earth.

Leader: God calls us to show kindness,

**People: Let Christ's light shine in places of brokenness and
despair.**

Leader: God calls us to walk humbly in the Spirit,

People: Let us join the work of the kingdom in humility and hope.

***HYMN**

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #444

INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSiON (Based on Matthew 22:37-40)

PRAiER OF CONFESSiON (UNISON)

**Loving God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our
covenant with you and with one another. We have not heeded**

your commandments. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people. We have not loved our neighbors as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and one another; through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on 1 Peter 2:9-10)

Hear the good news: scripture tells us “you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order to proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” People of God, all of us together have received God’s mercy in Jesus Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made people of God’s covenant. 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’S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling

block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON

The Values of the Kingdom

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

*HYMN

Christ for the World We Sing!

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #295

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

How Great Thou Art

arr. Dan Forrest

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)

God of Life, from you all loving kindness, justice, and mercy flow. Bless these gifts so that acts of kindness, justice, and mercy flow from them, too. Bless our lives so the world may see in us signs of your kingdom in the world, in Christ's name. 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

PRAAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

They Did Not Build in Vain

New Century Hymnal (Black) #373

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Sevenfold Amen

Adult Choir

POSTLUDE

Christ for the World We Sing

arr. Richard Blake

Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary following worship

*Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall after the meeting for
potluck lunch*



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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, *Interim Office Assistant*