



**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 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after 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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

arr. David Cherwien

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INTROIT

Youth Choir

The Arky Arky Song

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 36:5, 7-9)

Liturgist

Leader: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,

People: Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Leader: All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings

People: They feast on the abundance of your house,

Leader: And you give them drink from the river of your delights

People: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

***HYMN**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Insert

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 John 3:19)

PRAiER OF CONFESSiON (UNiSON)

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (From John 1:9, 12; 1 John 1:7)

Hear the good news! The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. 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 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

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

SERMON

A Dash of Salt and a Spark of Light

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

***HYMN**

O God of Earth and Altar

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #436

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

***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'ly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Loving God, we give thanks for all you have given to us and praise you for your goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the work of justice, mercy, and kindness. Bless our offering for the work of your kingdom, and give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

This Little Light of Mine

New Century Hymnal (Black) #524

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Amen, Amen, Amen

*(From African-American Spiritual)***POSTLUDE**

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Mary McDonald

*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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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*