



**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  
January 18, 2026  
Second 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**

All Beautiful the March of Days

arr. Penny Rodriguez

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Liturgist

**INTROIT**

Adult Choir

Let Christians all with one accord rejoice,  
And praises sing with heart as well as voice;  
Praises sing to God for glorious wonders done,  
For sending us His own beloved Son!

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist

Leader: Come and see what God has done

**People: Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world**

Leader: Come and see what God has done

**People: We have found the Messiah, the anointed one of God**

**\*HYMN**

All Beautiful the March of Days

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #456

**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 (1 John 1:8-9)**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way like lost sheep. We are misled by pride. We follow our own ways, ignore your voice, and distrust your provision. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.** (Time for individual silent confession)

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)**

Hear the good news: if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 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

### Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord  
and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,

the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

### **John 1:29-42**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

### **SERMON**

Seeking and Relationship

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

### **\*HYMN**

Christ Is the World’s True Light

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #198

## **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**

Freedom is Coming

Traditional South African Gospel Song  
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)**

**We give you thanks, O God, that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to do your will. Use these gifts to proclaim the good news to every nation and restore all people to Christ. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams New Century Hymnal (Black) #588

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen  
*(from African-American spiritual)*

### **POSTLUDE**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

*Informational Meeting about the budget in the Sanctuary following  
worship*

*Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall after the meeting 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  
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*