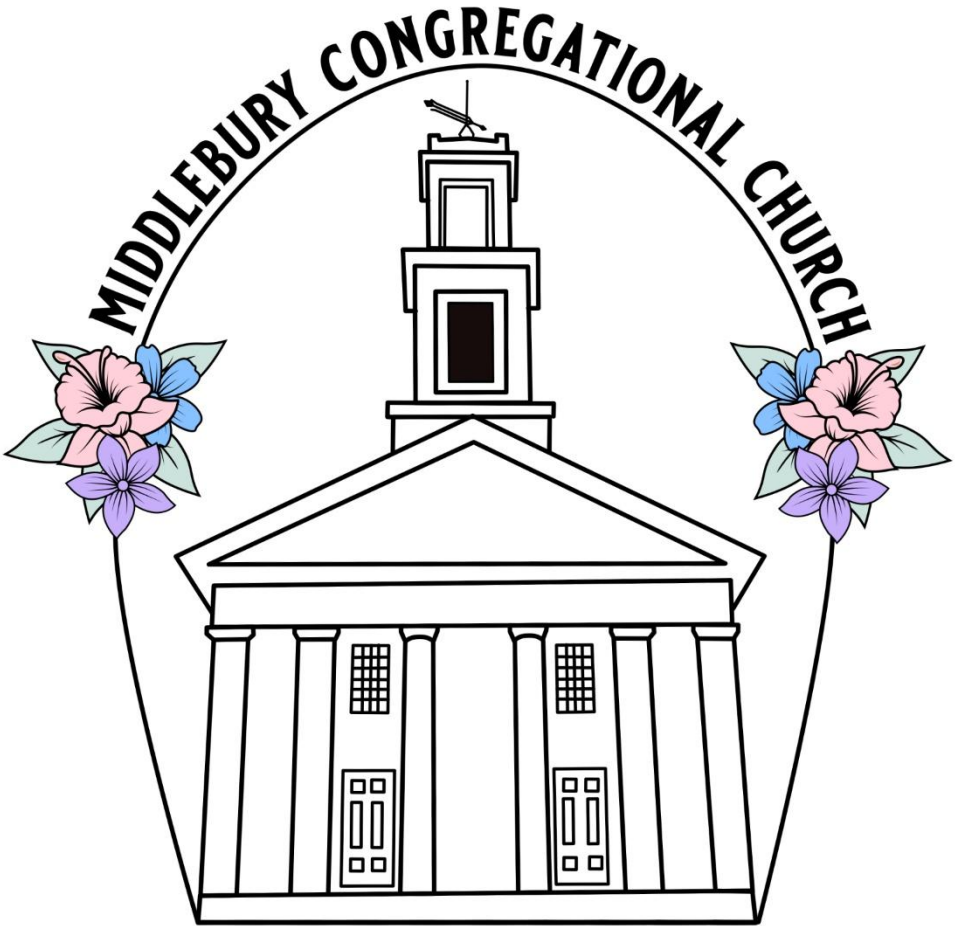


EASTERTIDE



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

**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
May 17, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension of the Lord**

*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 Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Jason Payne

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Ellen Aronheim

INTROIT

Adult Choir

The Lord is in His holy temple;
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 47)

Liturgist

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

People: For the Lord, the Most high, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king

People: For God is the king of all the earth, sing praises with a psalm

***HYMN**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #195

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 Hebrews 4:14; 10:22)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on 1 Peter 5:10)

Hear the good news! The God of all grace who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ will restore, support, and strengthen us. 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.

**FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR FUTURE CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN TESTIMONY**

Ellen Aronheim

*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

Psalm 93

The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed; he is girded with strength.
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;
your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.
More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!

Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house,
O Lord, forevermore.

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

The Power of the Past

***HYMN**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

New Century Hymnal (Black) #257

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

Hail, the Day That Sees Him Rise

arr. Dan Forrest

Adult Choir

***Doxology in Unison**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Eternal and ever-present God, bless the gifts we offer today with the power of your Holy Spirit. Use them and us to witness to the love of Jesus Christ and bring healing and hope to the world in his name. Amen.

***HYMN**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #199

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Amen

POSTLUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

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

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, *Office Assistant*