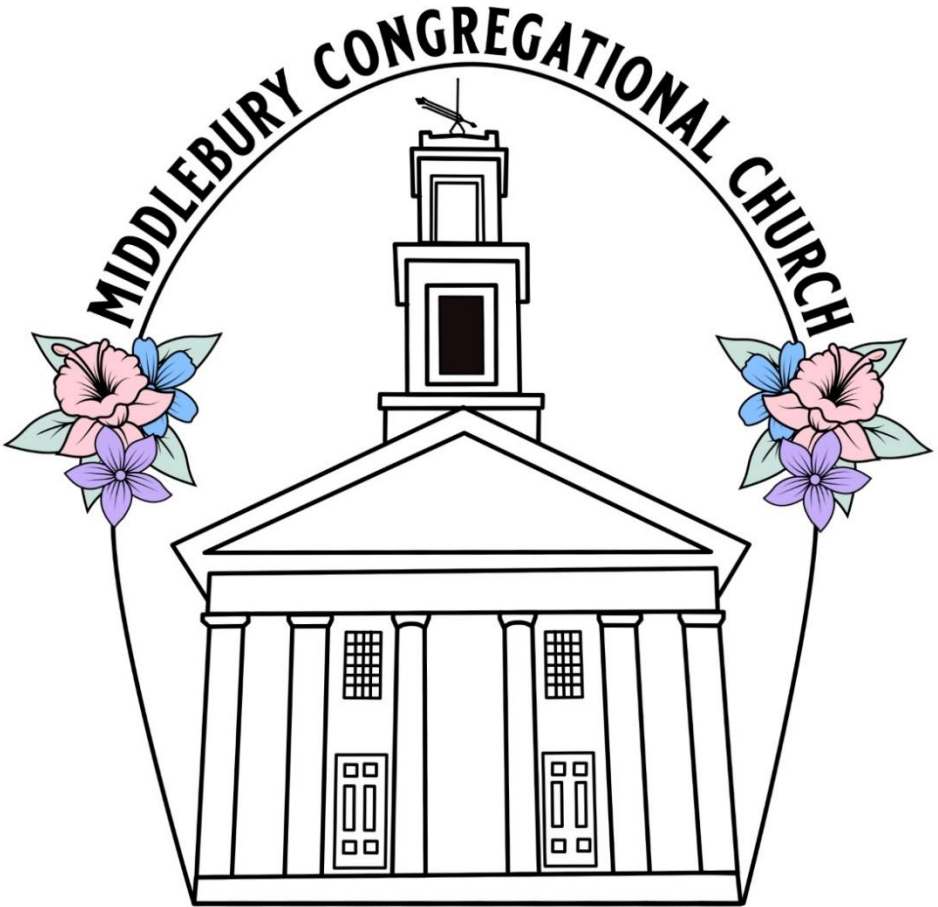


EASTERTIDE



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

Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*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

Easter Hallelujah

Emma Lou Diemer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Michele R. Finn

INTROIT

Adult Choir

Jesus stand among us, in Thy risen power.
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: God is our Rock and our Fortress

People: In God, we find refuge and strength.

Leader: God's house has many dwelling places.

People: We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Leader: Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.

**People: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Let us worship
God in Spirit and in Truth.**

***HYMN**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #180

INVOCATION

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Loving God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshipped 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 neighbor 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 2:10)

Hear the good news! Scripture tells us 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. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we have received mercy and 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be

glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

The Way and the Destination

***HYMN**

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life New Century Hymnal (Black)
#331

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

There Will Be a New Day

Greg Gilpin

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)**

Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion is served in the pews and is open to all, including children, who wish to grow in faith in Jesus Christ
(All communion bread is gluten free)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN**

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

New Century Hymnal (Black) #337

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Twofold Amen

POSTLUDE

Christ ist erstanden (Christ is Risen)

Johann Fischer

*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*