NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG

Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
November 1, 2026
All Saints' Sunday

*all those who are able please stand

About All Saints' Sunday

Saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of martyrs – their birthdays as saints through the completion of their baptism. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on or around November 1st since the ninth century. In our Reformed tradition, the emphasis of this festival is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age, especially those who have died in the past year.

Our worship begins with the Prelude.
Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer

PRELUDE
Sing With All the Saints in Glory arr. Laura Bergquist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist

INTROIT Adult Choir

O blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one within your great design. Alleluia.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 145:3-4, 10-11, 21) Liturgist
Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
People: there is no end to his greatness.
Leader: One generation shall praise your works to another

People: and shall declare your power
Leader: All your works praise you, Lord
People: and your faithful servants bless you.
Leader: They make known all the glory of your kingdom
People: and speak of your power.
Leader: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:
People: Let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

***HYMN**
Sing With All the Saints in Glory Insert

INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Colossians 2:12)

CONFESSION (UNISON)
Eternal God, in every age you have raised up people to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Ephesians 2:19-22)
Hear the good news! Scripture tells us: "you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God." Friends, all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a community united in faith. 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
Revelation 7:9-17
After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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 Rev. Katrina Manzi
Saints and the Kingdom

***HYMN**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #481

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

For All the Saints Ralph Vaughn Williams, arr. E.J. Lorenz
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. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Holy God, we give you thanks for the triumph of Christ in the lives of all his saints. Receive all we offer you this day, and help us, like them, to run our course with faith, that we may come to your eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Commemoration of the Departed

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)
God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful saints – those who hunger and thirst no more and worship night and day in your temple. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life, until we join the choir of the redeemed, singing: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**
O Savior, For the Saints New Century Hymnal (Black) #298

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** Adult Choir
God be with you 'till we meet again.
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you. Amen.

POSTLUDE
For All the Saints arr. Laura Bergquist

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*
Brittany Romaniello, *Youth Group Coordinator*
Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*
Sarah Kwashnak, *Office Assistant*