

**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
October 11, 2026
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

*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

Prelude on Deck Thyself, My Soul

Charles Callahan

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Stephanie Tiso

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 105:1, 37, 40, 42-43)

Leader: O Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name

People: Make known God's deeds among the people

Leader: God brought out Israel from Egypt

**People: The people asked, and God gave them food from
heaven in abundance**

Leader: For God remembered the holy promise to Abraham

**People: So, the Lord brought the people out with joy and with
singing**

***HYMN**

O Worship the King

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #6

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 Psalm 124:8)

CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of compassion, you are slow to anger and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you. Seat us at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children, we may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

(Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on 1 Tim 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24)

Hear the good news! The saying sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,

for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained
clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth,

for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom
of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet

for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

Dinner Attire

***HYMN**

What a Friend We Have In Jesus

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #335

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

Meditation on Humbly I Adore Thee

Charles Callahan

***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)**

Ever-giving God, Source of all goodness and charity; with joy and thanksgiving we bring these offerings. All that we give, we dedicate to your glory. All that we keep, we commit to your care, for we are only stewards of your bounty. Give us always generous hearts, that we may serve your people with gladness. Amen.

***HYMN**

Savior, Again to Thy dear Name

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #60

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Un Sospiro

Franz Liszt

Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall after worship for fellowship and refreshments

About Today's Music

MCC welcomes Christopher Dabbo as today's music substitute. Chris is a Waterbury native who has been playing piano since the age of 10. He's a graduate of the Hartt School of Music and maintains a very busy schedule of teaching and performing. Thanks, Chris!



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DOING GOD'S WORK

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Church Officers & Members of our Boards & Committees

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