

**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 25, 2025
Reformation Sunday, Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

*all those who are able please stand

About Reformation Sunday

On October 31 (the Eve of All saints' Day/All Hallows' Eve/Halloween) in 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk, Catholic priest, and professor of theology, nailed his "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This act, calling for debate on issues of corruption in the Catholic Church, is traditionally viewed as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Protestant churches, particularly those of the Lutheran and Reformed traditions, typically commemorate this day on the last Sunday in October. Our worship service this morning draws on prayers written by various Protestant reformers.

Our worship begins with the Prelude.

Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer

PRELUDE

All Creatures That On Earth do Dwell

arr. Fred Bock

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INTROIT

Youth Choir

Be still and know that I am God. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 124:8 & Psalm 46) Liturgist
*(All orders of worship authored by John Calvin begin with the
reading of Psalm 124:8)*

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. Amen.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should
change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the
sea,**

Leader: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

Leader: “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

***HYMN**

All Creatures That on Earth Do Dwell Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #4

INVOCATION *(From the 1526 German Mass by Martin Luther)*

Almighty God, Protector of all who put their hope in you, without whose grace nobody is strong, nor counts anything before you; increase your rich mercy upon us, that through your holy inspiration, we may think the things that are right, and through your power may accomplish the same. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray saying...

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

(From the 1566 Form of Ecclesiastical Prayers by John Calvin)
My brothers, let each of you present himself before the face of the Lord with confession of his faults and sins, following my words.

CONFESSION (UNISON)

(Prayer by Martin Luther)
Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm

me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(From the 1539 Psalter with all Church Practices by Martin Bucer based on 1 Timothy 1. Bucer was an influential reformer in Strasbourg and in his later years worked with Thomas Cranmer to revise the Book of Common Prayer in England.)

This is certainly true and a very precious word; Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let everyone truly confess with Saint Paul in his heart and believe in Christ. Thus, I promise you in his name the forgiveness of all your sins and I declare you to be loosed of your sins on earth, and that you are loosed of them also in heaven, forever. 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 7th grade may exit through the back doors of the sanctuary and meet in the Social Hall for Sunday School

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(From the 1539 Psalter with all Church Practices by Martin Bucer)
The Lord be with you! Let us pray! Almighty, gracious Father, since our whole salvation depends on our true understanding of your Holy Word, grant us all that our hearts – freed from worldly affairs – may

hear and understand your holy Word with all diligence and faith, so that we may rightly discern your gracious will, cherish it, and live by it with all earnestness, to your praise and honor, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

“Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

“If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

The Greatest Commandment

***HYMN**

We Limit Not the Truth of God

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #259

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

God of Mercy, God of Grace

Gordon Young

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)**

(From the 1552 Book of Common Prayer by Thomas Cranmer)

Guide us, O Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #363

***BENEDICTION**

(John Calvin, John Knox, Martin Luther, and other reformers ended worship services with the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Adult Choir

Twofold Amen

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

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

A Prayer for Helping us Look First to Our Neighbor

By Thomas Cranmer

Merciful Father in heaven, give us your grace and help to love our neighbors from the heart, and to always do them good – both in words and deeds. Grant that we may live purely, avoiding offense to others, and provoking no one to unclean living. Help us to encourage others to honesty.

May we help others to save and keep what they have. And if they live in poverty, help us to relieve them as we are able.

May we never hurt others with a false witness, but instead always speak well of our neighbor.

Keep us from evil hearts and desires, never wanting what belongs to others.

For this is your will, and you have commanded us to be obedient.
Amen.



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