



**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

**February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

PRELUDE

All Beautiful the March of Days arr Penny Rodriguez

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Manzi

INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Matthew 22:37-40) Rev. Manzi

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped 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 Isaiah 49:15, 66:12-13)

Hear the good news! In scripture the Lord says “Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you” “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord.” Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God does not forget us. Through the work of Jesus Christ we are reconciled, restored, and forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE Rev. Manzi

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed

with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

SERMON

Rev. Manzi

Resurrection and Remembering

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus Shall Reign

arr. Jason W. Krug

MCC Handbell Quartet

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Katrina will share joys, concerns and witness to your brothers and sisters that she received prior to today's service.

OFFERING AND DEDICATION OF OURSELVES

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Manzi

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,

For ever and ever. Amen.

[We use "Father" and "trespasses," but please use whatever words bring you closest to God.]

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, and north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us.

Transform us to be your body in the world, and fortify us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

arr Jan Bender

Please join us for Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:15 today.

The information to connect was emailed out to everyone by Katrina on

Wednesday, February 3rd under the heading

"Midweek Update: 5th Sunday after Epiphany".