Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension of the Lord

PRELUDE
Austin Zold
Reverie
Debussy

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Rev. Manzi

INVOCATION

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.]

CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Hebrews 4:14,16)
Rev. Manzi

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and
crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before
him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the
powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In
your mercy, forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your
faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.
(Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Hear the good news! As Christ is our witness, God’s power to pardon is
immeasurable. Therefore, proclaim this good news to the ends of the
earth: through Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE
Psalm 93
Rev. Manzi

The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;
your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.

3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.

4 More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the LORD!

5 Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house,
O LORD, forevermore.

Acts 1:1-12
In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught
from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after
giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had
chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many
convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking
about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them
not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.
“This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with
water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from
now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time
when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for
you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own
authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come
upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they
were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly
two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why
do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken
up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go
into heaven.”
Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.

SERMON
Resetting Expectations

MUSICAL OFFERING
Sonata 1

Mozart

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

Katrina Manzi, Minister
Austin Zold, Guest Musician
Donna Obarowski, Choir Director
David Obarowski, Organist
Valerie Beard, Christian Education Coordinator
Jeanine Bonaventure, Office Administrator
Diane Barnard, Asst. Treasurer
Rebecca Trosan, Nursery Attendant

DOING GOD’S WORK
The Congregation, Ministers in the World
Church Officers & Members of our Boards & Committees
Staff:
Katrina Manzi, Minister
Austin Zold, Guest Musician
Donna Obarowski, Choir Director
David Obarowski, Organist
Valerie Beard, Christian Education Coordinator
Jeanine Bonaventure, Office Administrator
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