



**Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

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

**PRELUDE**

Reverie

Austin Zold

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**

Rev. Manzi

**Psalms 93**

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;  
<sup>2</sup> your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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

Austin Zold

Mozart

**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**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Sonatina

Austin Zold

Kuhlau

**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*

Diane Barnard, *Asst. Treasurer*

Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*