



**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

**March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

PRELUDE

Near the Cross

arr Becky Waters

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 Matthew 22:37-40) Rev. Manzi

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our
whole heart, and have not loved our neighbors as we ought; we have
strayed from you commandments. Do not remember our sins, but
forgive our iniquities, that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no
more, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Peter 2:24)

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Jesus Christ 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Rev. Manzi

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON

Rev. Manzi

New Covenant, Same Story

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Old Rugged Cross

Hymn by George Bennard (1913)
arr. Philip Keveren

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 OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The Old Rugged Cross

POSTLUDE

The Old Rugged Cross

arr George Bennard

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

The information to connect was emailed out to everyone by Katrina on Wednesday, March 17th under the heading "Midweek Update: 5th Sunday in Lent".

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.