



**Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

**April 4, 2021  
EASTER**

**PRELUDE**

Resurrection Fanfare

Lani Smith

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Manzi

**INVOCATION**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Manzi

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the powers of sin and death and reconciled humanity to yourself. We confess that we have followed ways of sin and death. We have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have not heeded your commandments. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. 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 risen Lord. Amen.**

(Time for individual silent confession)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (based on I Corinthians 15:55-57)

Hear the good news from scripture: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and given victory over death. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

Rev. Manzi

**Isaiah 25: 6-9**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over all nations;

he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**John 20:1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**SERMON**  
**Called into Life**

Rev. Manzi

**Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

Easter Proclamation

arr, Stephen Decesare

Valerie Beard, soprano  
Len Beard, tenor

**CLOSING HYMN** (please join in singing the refrains)

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.

**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.*

**BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Alleluia! The Strife is O'er

**OFFERING AND DEDICATION OF OURSELVES**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Rev. Manzi

**POSTLUDE**

Hallelujah

G.F. Handel

**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 God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your**

