



**Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

**April 11, 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter**

**PRELUDE**

Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain arr Gilbert Martin

**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 1 John 1:8-9) Rev. Manzi

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought,  
word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left  
undone. We have trusted in ourselves rather than in you. We have  
not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have  
not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we  
have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the  
glory of your holy name. Amen.**

(Time for individual silent confession)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (based on 1 John 2:1-2)

Hear the good news! We have an advocate with God—Jesus Christ, the righteous one—who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Psalms 139**

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,”  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

Rev. Manzi

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.

O that you would kill the wicked, O God,  
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—  
those who speak of you maliciously,  
and lift themselves up against you for evil!  
Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?  
I hate them with perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.  
Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

### **John 20:19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **SERMON** **Sought Out**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

Love's Redeeming Work Is Done

Wesley/Michael Larkin

### **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**

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

### **POSTLUDE**

Christ ist erstanden (Christ is Risen)

Johann Fischer