



**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

**May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

PRELUDE

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

arr Richard Blake

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 John 15:12)

Rev. Manzi

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful 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 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 John 3:17)

Hear the good news! God did not send the Son into the world to
condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through
him. 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

I Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

