



The Congregational Church  
of Middlebury,  
United Church of Christ

*Our mission is to live as Jesus taught, loving  
God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.*

Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Elizabeth Gleich, Associate Pastor

January 5, 2025  
Second Sunday after Christmas

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PRELUDE                      "The Holy Boy"                      *Jeff Buettner*  
   John Ireland

WELCOME    *Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson*

TIME OF SILENCE

INTROIT                      Air from "Suite in D Major"                      *Emily Sunderman, violin*  
   J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP    *Tilly Hopkinson*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;**

but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

**Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn** (Isa. 60:1-3).

Let us worship God!

\*HYMN                      "We Three Kings"                      #172

PRAYER OF CONFESSION    *Rev. Elizabeth Gleich*

Some sins are plain to us; some escape us; some we cannot face. With  
confidence in the wideness of God's mercy, let us offer this prayer, and the  
prayers we speak in silence, with confidence in God's love.

**Gracious 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

*Silent Prayer*

#### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23a). In the light of this morning, we proclaim good news with thanks and praise: by the grace of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

#### PASSING THE PEACE

*Children may now leave for Big Meeting in Unity Hall.*

RESPONSE	"Spirit of the Living God"	#259
SCRIPTURE	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>Lily Flint</i>
SERMON	Faith Seeking Encounter	<i>Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson</i>
*HYMN	"Sing of God Made Manifest"	#176

#### OFFERING

Invitation

Collection of Gifts

Offertory      Largo from Concerto No. 4, "Winter" RV297  
Antonio Vivaldi

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*Prayer of Dedication

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together"

#425

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Closing Prayer

**Gracious God, with gratitude for this sacrament, we give ourselves to you. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Amen.**

\*HYMN "As with Gladness"

#173

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Noël Suisse"  
Louis-Claude Daquin

We are grateful to Emily Sunderman for sharing music in worship with us today.

Please remember these people in your prayers: *TJ Springthorpe, Ken Brownsword, Kay Bussiere, Patty Hallam, Annie Magri, Al Stiles, Mary Williams, Frank Winkler, Muffin Carothers, Helen McFerran, Annie Field, and Julie Ogden.*

Please remember family members in the military: *Riley Benoit, Aaron Brown and Joshua Hayes.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Nursery is open and staffed** for children 6 weeks to 4 years old from 9:45 – 11:15 each Sunday (Room 13, downstairs in the addition).
- On **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** the greens in the sanctuary will be taken down, and we'd love to have your help! Contact Dorothy Douglas, 388-6257 or [jdmamidd@comcast.net](mailto:jdmamidd@comcast.net) for details!
- **Justice, Compassion, and Democracy in 2025 and Beyond:** What role, if any, should the Church have in engaging social and political issues in the public domain? Meet in Unity Hall following worship today and January 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss religious leader's perspectives and explore alternative approaches.
- There will be a **Parent Playdate on Saturday, January 11 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** This group is for parents of children 4 and under, to connect, support one another, and build community over a meal and conversation. Childcare is provided! RSVP to Elizabeth at [elizabeth@midducc.org](mailto:elizabeth@midducc.org).



*We are an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We regard everyone with equal respect and concern, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, nationality, marital status or physical, mental or emotional disability.*



*We are a Creation Justice Church of the United Church of Christ.*

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