



*A Celebration of
Two Centuries of Religious Life In Middlebury*

The Ecumenical Community of Faith

*Thursday, February 1, 2007
7:30 o'clock P.M.*



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The Ecumenical Community of Faith
Middlebury, Connecticut
Order of Service
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Prelude *Improvisation on a Medley of American Songs*
Wayne Gunther, Organist

Words of Welcome Rev. Dennis Calhoun

Introit: *"Thus Saith the High, the Lofty One"* William Billings

Call to Worship:

L: Blessed be the name of God
from this time forth and forevermore.
**P: From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of God it to be praised.**
L: It is good to give thanks to God,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
**P: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.**

*Hymn: *"O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand"* Pilgrim Hymnal 438

*Prayer of Invocation (in unison): Deacon Nicholas Diorio

O Thou, in whose life we find our life, through the gift of whose spirit we do our work and bear our burdens; grant us now the sense of thy nearness. We would open our hearts freely to thy Spirit, our minds to thy Word, and our wills to thy quickening energy. Dwell in us and makes us fruitful. Give us now a quiet mind and a reverent heart, that we may worthily worship thee at this time. Amen.

Greetings *Bicentennial Steering Committee*

Psalter Reading *Psalms 47* Leader: Amelia Nagoski

Scripture Lesson *Ecclesiasticus 44:1-15* Fr. Tom Barry

*Hymn: *"God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand"* Pilgrim Hymnal 433

Address: *A Brief History of Religious Life in Middlebury* Dr. Ray Sullivan

Address: *Our Congregations Today* Revs. Hardwick, Barry & Calhoun

*Hymn: "We Would Be Building" Pilgrim Hymnal 494

A Litany for Our Town and the Wider World Rev. Bill Hardwick

Leader: O God, before whose face governments of the past have risen and fallen away, establish this town in righteousness; and in personal character and public integrity make her foundations sure.

***People:* Lord, hear our prayer and mercifully bless this people.**

Leader: By the deep faiths on which the foundations of our town were laid and by the sacrifices of its pioneers,

***People:* We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.**

Leader: By the memory of townspeople of those earlier times, whose wisdom and devotion and character have inspired us,

***People:* We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.**

Leader: By the undeserved wealth of our town committed to us by past generations, and by our stewardship to preserve that wealth for generations to come,

***People:* We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord.**

Leader: Keep us from pride of mind, and from boasting tongues deliver us; save our civic pride from narrowness and our community spirit from self-interest; by our love for our town may we measure the love of others for their communities, honoring their devotion as we honor our own; and acknowledging You as the one True God, may we see all humankind as one family and so govern our civic affairs that the whole world may become one community of peoples living in the peace and prosperity that is your vision for all the world.

***People:* Lord, hear our prayer and mercifully bless all your people, in our town and the wider world.**

*Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" New Century Hymnal 593

*Benediction Rev. Dennis Calhoun

Response: "Let The River Run" C. Simon

Postlude: *Toccata and Chorale* on the hymn tune *Middlebury* Chas. Callahan, 1997
Allan Dabkowski, Organist

** If you are able, please stand.*

Participants in the Service

Middlebury Bicentennial Steering Committee

Bob Desmarais
Ray Pietrorazio
Terry McAuliffe
Ron Vitarelli

Middlebury Congregational Church, UCC

The Reverend Dr. Dennis B. Calhoun, Senior Minister
Ms. Amelia Nagoski, Minister of Music
Mr. Wayne Gunther, Organist
Members of the Adult Choir and Sounds of Joy Singers

St. John of the Cross Roman Catholic Church

The Reverend Fr. Thomas J. Barry, Pastor
Mr. Nicholas Diorio, Deacon
Mr. Allan Dabkowski, Organist
Members of the Choir
Dr. Raymond Sullivan, Speaker

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Dr. William Hardwick, Vicar
Members of the Choir

Refreshments will be served in the Social Hall following the service.