

First Church of Christ in Mansfield (Congregational) United Church of Christ

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church The Rev. Charles Ericson, Bridge Minister Erik Haeger, Organist Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

OCTOBER 6, 2024 ~ THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to Our Guests!

We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church... if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!

Playing the Chimes and Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Centering in the Spirit

This is the house of God, the dwelling place where God's glory abides.

When we come into God's house, we find peace and affirmation.

We bring with us our worries, our uncertainties and our yearnings,

And here we receive encouragement and steadfast support.

Our souls overflow with joys and accomplishments, too, when we enter God's house.

And we are greeted by kindred spirits who delight in sharing our gladness.

How blessed are we to have this sacred space...this safe space...to gather and grow.

Come, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn What Is This Place CH289

Prayer for Transformation

A short while ago we arrived here, and at the close of worship we will return to our lives outside of church. Between our coming and our going, we will speak, listen, pray and sing. And we will change. Weary spirits will be revived...nagging regrets will be resolved...needs will be satisfied...and we will give to one another reassurance and strength. Awaken our senses, O God, so that we may be ready to receive these gifts of new life that come to us as we worship. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

God's steadfast love surrounds us in every circumstance of life: when we go off to sleep, when we awaken the next morning, at home, and here as we worship. May we rejoice in the steady flow of God's steadfast love that brings us healing, redemption, forgiveness and mercy at all times and in all places. Amen.



Hebrew Scripture

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

1:1 There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. 2:1 One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. ²The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ³The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." ⁴Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. ⁵But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." ⁶The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." ⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." ¹⁰But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Gospel Mark 10:13-16

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Reflection "Drawn Together"

Hymn Help Us Accept Each Other CH487

Call to Prayer Hear Us O Lord Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is comfortable for you.

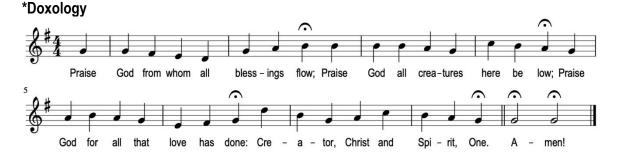
The following are offered as examples...

Our Father/Mother/Creator,
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/sins/trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/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, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Your financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates as they come around, or mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, PO Box 36, Mansfield Center, CT 06250, or given online at: www.myfcc.info

Musical Offering Erik Haeger



*Prayer of Dedication

With grateful hearts and buoyant spirits, we bring our gifts to you, O God, asking your blessing on the time, talents and treasures that make our giving possible. Please guide our congregation as these offerings become transformed into acts of kindness, generosity, support and extravagant love to our neighbors in this community and throughout all of creation. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them up to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us continue in the spirit of prayer:

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made...

... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Musical Response

Santo Santo Santo

CH111

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at Christ's table; we offer non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

CH422

*Benediction

Now may God bless you and keep you;

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;

May God's countenance be lifted up upon you and give you peace. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude

CH = Chalice Hymnal (blue)

*Please stand in body or in spirit, as you are able