



**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, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**February 2, 2025 — Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Communion Sunday**

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

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Centering in the Spirit (*inspired by 1 Corinthians 13*)

L: It is not enough to speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels...

P: ...unless what we say is rooted in love.

L: It is not enough to understand all mysteries and all knowledge...

P: ...unless our understanding is intertwined with love.

L: It is not enough to have faith that can remove mountains...

P: ...unless our strength flows from a deep well of love.

L: Come, let us seek such love together as we worship...

P: ...the love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things.

***Opening Hymn**

I Love Your Church, O God

CH274

Prayer for Transformation

Giver of O Life and Love, we have choices to make all the time: to be patient and kind, or to be envious or boastful...to let the feelings and opinions of others be heard, or always insist upon our own way...to rejoice in wrongdoing, or rejoice in the truth. We try so hard to reflect the qualities of love and faith in our daily lives, O God, and yet somehow we slip up once in awhile and act envious or boastful, self-centered, or accepting of what we know to be wrong. Please pull us back from those tendencies that are not grounded in selfless love, we pray, and fill our souls with your love more and more with each passing hour, day, week and lifetime. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Our God's love is eternal and unconditional. It is a love that showers us with grace and mercy, both in our shining moments of selfless humility and in our fragile moments of falling short and falling down. Friends, this day God celebrates with us in our moments of shining, and lifts us up from our moments of fragility to show us the way of redemption and new life. May we rejoice and give thanks! Amen.

*Song of Praise

Glory to God

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out

4 par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-ginning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

8 1. now and ev - er shall be, A - men 2. World with-out men!

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Reflection

"Religion and Politics"

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou - bles, and our cares.
Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

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

Love never ends. This simple truth is at the very heart of who we are as individuals and as a church. It flows outwardly from us — to our neighbors, our community and our world through ministries of faith formation...interfaith missions...programs that feed and shelter...and personal witness. May our offerings be generous so that the “love that never ends” may reach far and wide. Amen.

Musical Offering

Erik Haeger

*Doxology

5 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise
God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we ask your blessing on the gifts we have offered this day, and pray that the fruits of our giving may reach our neighbors, near and far, who long to have hope... faith... and, most of all, love. Amen.

~ The Service of Holy Communion ~

For visitors: At the Last Supper, Jesus turned no one away and imposed no restrictions on receiving the bread and the cup. Neither do we here at First Church in Mansfield. Christ's table is open at all, and we extend an extravagant welcome to you to join us. Communion is received by "intinction" whereby each person proceeds down the aisle, takes a piece of bread, dips it in the cup, and returns to their pew or seat. For those who wish to know, the cup contains non-alcoholic grape juice and the bread is gluten-free.

Communion Hymn

I Come with Joy

CH420

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

Traditional Argentine

San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

5
 co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!
 heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

CH464

***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

The Week Ahead...**Sunday, February 2**

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle

3:00 p.m. Consonare rehearsal

Monday, February 3

6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

Tuesday, February 4

10:30 a.m. Monthly Service at Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehab

6:00 p.m. Special Olympics Cornhole practice

Wednesday, February 5

1:00 p.m. Book Group

Thursday, February 6

9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service

Sunday, February 9

10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle; Commissioning of the Pastoral Search Committee

A REQUEST FROM SEWING & SERVICE

During the month of February we will be collecting items for our Health Kits.

We need:

- 30 hand towels
- 21 facecloths /washcloths
- 16 nail clippers
- 26 individually wrapped bars of soap
- 270 Band-aids 3/4"-1" width

You can place your donated items in the basket that is located in the front of the sanctuary.