



**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

April 13, 2025 — Palm 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

Procession of the Children

"Hosanna, Hosanna We Sing" by Stan Pethel

Centering in the Spirit

Karen Christianson

One: On this day, Jesus marched

**All: In between the city walls and the Temple,
In between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
In between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
In between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

One: On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

**All: So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.
May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.**

One: Hosanna in the highest!

All: Hosanna in between!

***Opening Hymn**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

CH192

Prayer for Transformation

Great Creator, forgive us when we speak before listening, when we speak over our neighbor, when we speak with barbed words. Creator God, forgive us when we listen to society, when we listen to our friends, when we listen to the news, but we do not listen to you. Creator God, forgive us when we shout out, but do not shout your name when we listen, but do not listen for your voice. Forgive us. Create in each of us a heart like yours. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals this year, whether or not this is your first time in church or your thousandth time, whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice, God listens to you. God is merciful. God is abounding in steadfast love.

There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone. Hosanna in the highest! 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

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Gospel

Luke 19:29-40

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

On this day, long ago, we recall that Jesus' followers praised God for Jesus' deeds of power that they had seen...deeds that healed, fed the hungry, gave hope to the poor, rescued those being threatened, and broke down religious and societal barriers. As a family of believers, we continue carrying out these same "deeds of power" through our church's ministries and missions, supported by our gifts of time, talent and treasure. In this spirit of joy and conviction, our morning offering will now be received.

*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,*

Musical Offering

Erik Haeger

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

God of Joyous Celebration, we ask your blessing on the gifts and offerings we bring to you this day. Through your Holy Spirit, and our service together as a congregation, may our neighbors near and far experience "deeds of power" such as Jesus bestowed upon others — deeds that heal, feed, encourage, rescue, and transform the world through unconditional love and lasting hope. In Jesus's Name. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

CH190

*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 opening liturgy and the poetry reading were written by the Rev. Sarah A. Speed for the Lent series "everything [in] between." Permission for use has been granted by A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Monday, April 14	6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal
Wednesday, April 16	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee
Thursday, April 17	7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday, April 18	noon – 3 p.m. Good Friday Vigil
Saturday, April 19	COMPLETE THE SEARCH COMMITTEE SURVEY!
Sunday, April 20 (Easter Sunday)	6:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at Spring Hill Baptist Church 10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle at First Church

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday Worship

The children will start off the service by singing “Hosanna!” with the choir and distributing palms to the congregation.

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae

We will use symbolic candle extinguishing to darken the sanctuary as the story of Jesus’ crucifixion and burial unfolds. The choir will share their musical offering of “The Upper Room.”

Good Friday Vigil

The sanctuary will be open from noon to 3 p.m. Resources on “The Seven Last Words of Christ” will be available for your individual reflection and prayer while contemplative music plays in the background. Take as little or as much time as you wish.

Easter Morning

Start the day with a Sunrise Service and breakfast at Spring Hill Baptist Church. At 10:15 a.m. at First Church, we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through scripture, prayers, and music centered on the hope and joy of Christ's victory over death. The children will process with the new Paschal Candle and will “unearth” the Alleluia banner.