



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

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All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**THE TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + JUNE 23, 2024**

**Chimes and Prelude**

**Welcome and Greeting**

**Hymn**

*Gather Us In*

CH284

**Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from Paul's Letter to Ephesians: For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

When in this past week have we not been rooted and grounded in love?

*Silence*

**Sustainer of the hungry, like a mother you long to feed your children until each is satisfied. Turn our eyes to you alone, that, aware of our own deepest longings, we will reach out with Christ to feed others with the miracle of your love. 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 now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

## Hebrew Scripture

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!" Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I

cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

## **Psalter**

Psalm 15

CH729

## **Gospel**

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

## **Reflection**

## 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note. The lyrics are written below the staff. A small number '9' is positioned to the left of the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics for the second staff are also written below it.

## Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples.

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory.

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest. Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice.

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another.

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our Governing Board, our Ministry Teams, our outgoing moderator Libby, and our nominated moderator Deb. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly.

*Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is most 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.**

## Musical Offering

*The Gift of Love*

CH526

*Financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates,  
mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC. Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250,  
or given online at [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info)*

## 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

**We bring you only what is yours, Creator God, that you might use this offering and those who give for the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen.**

## Hymn

*Ours the Journey*

CH458

## Service of Release from the Pastoral Relationship

One thing ends, another begins. One door closes another opens. For everything and everyone there is a season, a few seasons, or many seasons. Today we celebrate our seasons together with Pastor Joe, the lessons learned, and the tears and laughter shared. Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go through the seasons of our lives together.

**Each has gifts to share. Each leaves part of themselves here with us and takes a part of us along with them. In every new beginning is an ending. In every ending, there is a new beginning.**

Today, we bid farewell to Pastor Joe, who has faithfully served this church and this congregation. Pastor Joe, we are grateful for the gifts and spiritual leadership you have shared with our community of faith, and we thank you for your service.

*I am very grateful for the time I have journeyed here and the seasons we have shared. I thank all of you for the kindness, support, and care that I have found in this church. I am grateful for the ways my leadership and creativity has been accepted and encouraged. I ask forgiveness for mistakes I've made, thoughtless words I've said, and things I am leaving left undone. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

We appreciate your time with us and all your efforts on our behalf. We offer you our forgiveness. We, in turn, ask your forgiveness for any mistakes we made, thoughtless

words we said, and things we've left undone.

*I offer you my forgiveness.*

Do you, friends and members of the First Church of Christ in Mansfield, release Pastor Joe from the duties of Pastor of this church, and offer your encouragement and support for his new ministry?

**We do, with the help of God.**

Joe, do you release this church from turning to you and depending on you, and offer your encouragement and support for the continued ministry here and for the person who will come to serve after you?

*I do, with the help of God.*

On behalf of the Windham Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, I have witnessed the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. The Association Council pledges its support in the transitions signified in this service.

**Thanks be to God.**

I invite Pastor Joe's family to come up for our laying on of hands. Governing Board and Ministry Team leaders, I invite you as well. Will everyone please rise as you are able, and all who wish may come forward for the laying on of hands. Or you may reach out your hand in blessing from where you are or put your hand on the shoulder of your nearest neighbor as we send Pastor Joe out into the world with our blessings. Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have commanded of you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Pastor Joe, we offer our blessing on your new work and call. We will hold you in our prayers as we know you will be praying for us. Pastor Joe, go now in peace.

**Benediction**

Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly

**Musical Sharing of Peace**

*Peace Be With You*

C. Grundy

Peace be with you, peace be with you, peace be with you now, God's peace to you.

Peace be hind you, peace be fore you, peace be all a-round in Je-sus Christ.