



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

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

JULY 14, 2024 ~ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Today's Worship Leader: James Mercurio

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

Welcome

Call to Worship

O God our creator, author of mercy, we thank you that today you have called us to worship you and learn of you.

You alone are our God and author of our salvation.

You know our needs and satisfy them with unchanging love.

Break our hearts O Lord with your love.

In your presence, we can find comfort in our sorrow, strength in our weakness and grace to overcome.

We want to meet Jesus again and go into the world with Christ's love in our hearts.

What we experience and what we feel is to be spread to all corners of the earth.

This we ask to your glory and in Christ's name. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

CH86

Pastoral Introduction for passing the peace

***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.

Prayer of Confession

Amid our "summer" lives, O Lord, so many things have claimed our attention. We worked hard this year to earn a little rest and recreation, to break away from the stresses of our everyday living. We have focused so much on our needs for physical change and peace that we have neglected our spiritual pangs of hunger and thirst.

Forgive us when we are tempted to stray from our worship of you and focus entirely on ourselves and our own needs. Help us to remember all the wondrous things you continue to do for us. When we encounter situations where sorrow and hurt surround us, help us be ready to bring hope and peace into the situation. In your holy name, we pray...

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance (Ephesians 1)

All you who seek God, and who have set your hope on Jesus Christ, hear the good news: we have received forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God's grace. As forgiven and beloved children of God, let us set our hope on Christ, and live for the praise of Christ's glory.

*Song of Praise

Gloria Patri

traditional

7

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it
was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. A small number '7' is written above the first staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Christian Scripture

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel

Mark 6:14-20

¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

The word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks Be to God

Reflection Message:

“Setting the Hope without Fear”

James Mercurio

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.

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

O God, you know our hearts and our needs before we do. Today, we pray for those that are not here with us both in person and in virtual. We pray for those that we have been praying for, worried about and seek your intervention O God.

(You are invited to come forward and light a candle, speaking your prayers into the microphone, or remaining silent and allowing the candle to speak for you.)

We ask for your intervention, mercy, and peace to be with all those named and those that lie in our hearts. We pray this in the words that Jesus taught us to pray.

**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

*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

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures 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**

Generous and Giving God, you have poured your blessings on us as the rain soaks the sun-parched grass of our lawns. You have lavished us with redemption, forgiveness, and grace. When you send the rain to water the grass, you expect growth in return. Remind us this day, as we make our gifts to you, that we have been blessed for a purpose – that we might be a blessing to others. May we grow in compassion, in mercy, in longing for justice and love, as Christ loved us. In that holy name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

It Is Well With My Soul

CH561

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

Today we welcome James Mercurio as our guest Worship Leader. After more than a dozen years as a licensed pastor in the United Methodist Church, Jim discerned that his path was turning him toward ordination in the United Church of Christ. He is currently a member of the First Congregational Church in Canterbury and has been approved for ordination by the Windham Association of the Southern New England Conference once he has been Called to a covenantal ministry in the UCC.

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, July 14

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle (Worship Leader: James Mercurio)

Wednesday, July 17

4-8pm Summer Fun & Fellowship at the Pavilion at Bicentennial Pond

Thursday, July 18

9:30am Quilt Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 21

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle (Worship Leader: Cheryl Chase)