



**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 21, 2024

Today's Worship Leader: Cheryl Chase

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 and Announcements

Call to Worship

Though we come from different circumstances,

The Lord will make us one in worship.

Though we have traveled different paths of struggles and successes,

The Lord will make us one in healing.

Though each one of us has struggles and strife, as well as joy,

The Lord will make us one in hope. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

In Loving Partnership

CH497

Call to Healing and Words of Assurance

Hear these words from David, in Psalm 20. ⁶ Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand. ⁷ Some take pride in chariots and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God. ⁸ They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we confess that our lives keep us consumed more with doing than with being. We trust in the chariots and horses of our times—our tools, our schemes, our positions. We acknowledge that you call us to rest in your truth, your love, and your peace without abdicating our responsibility to embody your good news in the world. We struggle to balance the rhythms of rest and renewal in our lives and seek your guidance and direction toward a life where you are our peace, our hope, and our standard. Guide us on this path, we pray.

moment of silence

Let us continue together with these words of assurance:

Beloved, you do not journey alone. In community with the Holy One and one another, we find grace and strength to heed the call to discipleship. In Christ, we carry the good news and reflect a God who is near to us, faithful to redeem, and affirms our rest and renewal.

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 world with-out end, A - men. Worldwith-out end, world with-out 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. Worldwith-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men. now and ev - er shall be, A - men Worldwith-out men!

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-13

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psalter

Psalm 133

sung to CH tune #127

**How good when all the earth is one,
And hearts embrace community;
When strife will cease to separate,
And love binds all in unity.**

**As oil anointed Aaron's head,
And dew adorns the mountainside,
So peace and blessing of the Lord
Within the faithful heart abide.**

Christian Scripture

Ephesians 4:1-16

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of

the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Reflection

Cheryl Chase

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. The lyrics are written below the staff. A small number '9' is positioned to the left of the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and lyrics.

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

Creator God, you are ever present and always listening. Today we pray for God's holy church; by remaining on the true vine may it bear great fruit for the glory of God and the service of all people. We pray for our nation, that all people may open their hearts and know that we are all one in your sight. We pray for all of those in service to others that may they receive the support necessary to help in all the ways that they do, with skill and compassion. And for all gathered here, may we follow Jesus's commandment to love others in word and indeed.

(During the Prayers of the People, you are invited to come forward, light a candle, and speak your prayer into the microphone or allow the candle to speak for you.)

God of peace, with tenderness and compassion you call us to the fullness of life in your presence. Hear our prayers that by your grace we might build communities where all will flourish and find welcome. All this we ask in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying:

**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,
mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC. Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250, or given
online at www.myfcc.info*

Musical Offering

Howard Drescher

*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 God, we give these gifts to you through this faith community. May you lead and guide us with discernment so that our ministry would give you glory, honor your name, and benefit your creation. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

CH433

*Benediction

*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...

TODAY

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

5:00pm PFLAG of Mansfield/Tolland in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 28

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle (Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Ericson)