



**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

**THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ JULY 28, 2024**

Today's Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Ericson

**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**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

**CH234**

**Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer**

As we come into God's presence this day, we are very aware of the complexities of our humanity.

**As people of faith, we yearn for God to be at the center of our beings — yet we can sometimes act as if we have forgotten God's place in our lives.**

We seek after God's wisdom to guide us — yet we can often act foolishly instead of wisely.

**We strive to follow the path that Jesus has shown us — yet we can easily be distracted and tempted to go astray.**

We long for the peace of God to dwell in our hearts — yet fear and anger can overcome us and unsettle our souls.

**We know that our loving God understands the complexities of our humanity, and is ready to cleanse our hearts and calm our souls as we pause to share our personal longings with God in silence...**

*moment of silence*

Let us pray.

**God of Healing and New Life, We are assured of receiving your grace and mercy, for you created us to be less than perfect and you expect that our imperfection will be revealed from time to time. Please forgive us for the silent confessions we have brought to you just now, as well as others we may seek in the days ahead. Yes, make us new creations, and brighten the path before us that leads to peace, wisdom, and new life! 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**

II Samuel 11:1-4a,6-15

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup>David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." <sup>4</sup>So David sent messengers to get her.

<sup>6</sup>David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup>When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup>Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. <sup>9</sup>But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. <sup>10</sup>When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" <sup>11</sup>Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." <sup>12</sup>Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, <sup>13</sup>David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

<sup>14</sup>In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup>In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

**Gospel**

John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and

two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup>When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. <sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

## Reflection

"The Man Who Would Not Be King"

Rev. Charles Ericson

## Hymn

Trust and Obey

CH 556

## Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

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 Gratitude

*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,  
 or given online at: [www.myfcc.info](http://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

**Please accept and bless these offerings that we bring before you now, God of Love, for they represent one of many ways that we seek to follow in the example of Jesus Christ. Through our church's ministries and outreach missions, may these gifts provide rest for the weary, relief for those who bear heavy burdens, and an easy yoke of compassion and companionship for all who struggle to be seen and heard. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult

CH337

### \*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

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Today we welcome Rev. Charles Ericson as our guest pastor. A Connecticut native, Rev. Ericson is a retired pastor in the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Tolland Association. He may also be a familiar face to some, as he served as the Interim Regional Minister for our Windham Association from 2017-2020 following a 32-year pastorate at the Bolton Congregational Church UCC. We look forward to the fall when Rev. Chuck will join us as our Bridge Minister.

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