



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

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250
860.423.9008 + www.myfcc.info

Ministers: All the Members of the Church
The Rev. Charles Ericson, Bridge Minister
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

OCTOBER 6, 2024 ~ THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Greeting and Announcements

Centering in the Spirit

This is the house of God, the dwelling place where God's glory abides.

When we come into God's house, we find peace and affirmation.

We bring with us our worries, our uncertainties and our yearnings,

And here we receive encouragement and steadfast support.

Our souls overflow with joys and accomplishments, too, when we enter God's house,

And we are greeted by kindred spirits who delight in sharing our gladness.

How blessed are we to have this sacred space...this safe space...to gather and grow.

Come, let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

What Is This Place

CH289

Prayer for Transformation

A short while ago we arrived here, and at the close of worship we will return to our lives outside of church. Between our coming and our going, we will speak, listen, pray and sing. And we will change. Weary spirits will be revived...nagging regrets will be resolved...needs will be satisfied...and we will give to one another reassurance and strength. Awaken our senses, O God, so that we may be ready to receive these gifts of new life that come to us as we worship. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

God's steadfast love surrounds us in every circumstance of life: when we go off to sleep, when we awaken the next morning, at home, and here as we worship. May we rejoice in the steady flow of God's steadfast love that brings us healing, redemption, forgiveness and mercy at all times and in all places. Amen.

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/trespases,
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

*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*

Musical Offering

Erik Haeger

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

With grateful hearts and buoyant spirits, we bring our gifts to you, O God, asking your blessing on the time, talents and treasures that make our giving possible. Please guide our congregation as these offerings become transformed into acts of kindness, generosity, support and extravagant love to our neighbors in this community and throughout all of creation. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them up to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us continue in the spirit of prayer:

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made...

... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Musical Response

Santo Santo Santo

CH111

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at Christ's table; we offer non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

CH422

***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

CH = Chalice Hymnal (blue)

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