



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

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

October 13, 2024 ~ The Twenty-first 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 (*inspired by Psalm 90:14*)

God satisfies us in the morning with steadfast love.

God's steadfast love pours out upon us every time we gather here.

For this is a sacred space, a holy space where God's love can be felt in many ways.

God's steadfast love comes to us in hymns and anthems.

God's steadfast love comes to us in word, in prayer and in blissful silence.

God's steadfast love comes to us in endless abundance.

God's steadfast love is to be deeply cherished and extravagantly shared.

May our hearts be open to God's steadfast love we as we worship this morning!

***Opening Hymn**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

CH275

Prayer for Transformation

As nighttime yields to the dawn, as clouds pass and sunlight emerges, and as the ice of winter melts to become nourishment for springtime blossoms, so do we go through changes in the living of our days. You have been with us and loved us, dear God, in our moments of weakness and challenge — and you offer us mercy and hope as we go forward. As we worship and pray this morning, God, please lift our spirits and strengthen our wills, and show us how to become like the dawn...like emerging light...and like nourishing waters to one another and to our world. Amen.

~ moment of silence ~

Words of Grace

God's steadfast love satisfies us in the morning, and continues on into the evening and throughout the days to come, showering us with forgiveness...healing...hope...and new life. May our senses be alert to these gifts of divine grace and may we receive them with joy. Amen.

Song of PraiseGlory 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. Worldwith-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. Worldwith-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

8 now and ev - er shall be, A - men Worldwith-out men!

Epistle

Hebrews 4:12-16

²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. ¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Gospel

Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Reflection “The Thrill of Losing, The Agony of Winning” The Rev. Charles Ericson

Hymn *Dear God, Embracing Humankind* CH594

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.

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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 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

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise

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God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

***Prayer of Dedication**

We bring our offerings to you this day, dear God, as followers of Jesus, who has shown us the way of humility, sacrifice and service. With your added blessing and guidance, may these gifts support our church's ministries and missions that reveal your steadfast love to neighbors near and far whose needs are far greater than our own. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

CH461

***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

The Week Ahead

Sunday, October 13

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

Following worship all are invited gather in Fellowship Hall for coffee hour and to help the Sewing and Service group package the school kits we will send to Church World Service.

Monday, October 14

7:00pm Take Note! rehearsal in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 16

1:00pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 17

9:30am Quilt Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 20

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

5:00pm PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland in Fellowship Hall