



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 20, 2024 ~ The Twenty-second 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 91:15)*

When we call out to God, God will answer us.

When we call to God in times of confusion, God will answer with guidance.

When we call to God in times of sorrow, God will answer with comfort and support.

When we call to God in times of joy, God will answer with celebration.

When we call to God as we face challenging dilemmas, God will answer with wisdom.

When we call to God with gratitude, God will answer with appreciation.

God is here among us, waiting for us to call out.

May we be ready to hear God's answers as we worship this morning!

*Opening Hymn

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

CH265

Prayer for Transformation

In our daily rushing about, dear God, we often do not pause to call out to you, and our senses are not poised to hearing...seeing...and feeling the ever-present signs of your holy presence in the world around us. In these precious moments of worship, we have the opportunity to reorient our attention away from selfish desires, superficial concerns and worldly yearnings — and turn our hearts and our thoughts to you. May this “turning of our hearts and thoughts” last longer than one hour of worship — may we continue to live this way throughout the week ahead and beyond. Amen.

~ moment of silence ~

Words of Grace

God is nearby whenever we call, waiting and ready at all times to answer with blessed mercy, strong support, unconditional love, and the promise of new life whenever we call. Whatever our condition, whenever we feel the need, God's grace is never far away. Amen.

A Moment for Stewardship

*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!

Epistle

Hebrews 5:1-10

5:1 Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel

Mark 10:35-45

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Reflection

“Sacrifice Through the Ages”

Hymn

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

CH344

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.

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.**

Musical Offering

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

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, our world and our lives overflow with Your abundant generosity. The offerings we bring before You now represent our eternal gratitude to You for all we have received, as well as our commitment as followers of Jesus to sharing our blessings with others whose needs are far greater than our own. Guided by Your Spirit, may these gifts bring hope and healing in places near and far. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Take My Life

CH609

***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 20

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

5:00pm PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 23

1:00 pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 27

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle