



**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 27, 2024 ~ The Twenty-third 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

Welcome and Announcements

Centering in the Spirit (*inspired by Psalm 34:4*)

We have stepped away from the busy-ness of our daily lives and gathered here to worship.

We have come here to seek God's holy presence together.

In this sacred space, God knows what is stirring in our souls, and is ready to respond.

If we come with fears and anxieties, God responds with reassurance and calm.

If we come with questions and uncertainties, God responds with clarity and wisdom.

If we come with joy and good news, God joins with us in celebration.

Come, friends, come and worship our God this day!

For God's Spirit is surely here with us: waiting...listening...and responding!

***Opening Hymn**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

CH575

Prayer for Transformation

All too often, Loving God, our senses are not attuned to you. We are listening for approval from others... giving in to temptations to satisfy our longings... turning away from what is holy and spiritual. We pray that this hour of worship will guide us gently back to you. In our hymns and other musical offerings, may we hear you speaking to our hearts; in our prayers and quiet reflections, may we feel your grace and wisdom flowing into our souls; may we behold your love and kindness in one another's faces and expressions of friendship. Most of all, may we continue to keep you at the center of our lives in the week ahead and beyond. Amen.

~ moment of silence ~

Words of Grace (*inspired by Psalm 34:22*)

The Psalmist has written: "God redeems the life of God's servants; none of those who take refuge in God will be condemned." In all of life's challenges and moments of decision, may we remember to pause...and take refuge in God, for then we will receive guidance, mercy, redemption and new life. 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. 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 **1.** now and ev - er shall be, A - men **2.** Worldwith-out men!

Hebrew Scripture

Job 5:1-6,10-17

Then Job answered the Lord: ²"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴"Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me." ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

¹⁰And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. ¹²The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. ¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. ¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. ¹⁷And Job died, old and full of days.

Gospel

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵²Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Reflection

"Healthy Pastoral Care"

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 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

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, bless us with increased generosity, trust, and faithfulness. Receive these gifts as an offering of praise. May needs be met, lives be changed, and hearts be warmed through our giving. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

CH450

***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 27

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

Monday, October 28

7:00pm Take Note! Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 30

1:00pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 2

9am-noon Community Giving Event in the lower parking lot

Sunday, November 3

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle