



**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

November 17, 2024 — The Twenty-sixth 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 16*)

In our daily comings and goings, there are many paths that stretch out before us.

Some paths can lead us to wealth and prosperity that never seem to fulfill.

Some paths are strewn with temptations that can leave us empty and lost.

Some paths simply make us weary and weak with no end in sight.

But the path that God shows us promises fulness of joy and pleasures forevermore.

Come, let us take this path together as we seek God's presence in worship!

***Opening Hymn**

In Loving Partnership

CH497

Prayer for Transformation

Holy One, our Guardian and Guide in life, as hard as we might try, we do not always put you before us as we set out on a path to travel. Often, without thinking, we allow other powers and desires to take your place. We are prone to giving in to the lures of materialism, seeking the approval of our peers, listening to voices that lead us astray. Today, as we are gathered for worship, may we find you reaching out to us, beckoning us to once again put you before us, believing that you will always lead us to the true destination of our hearts. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

When we neglect to put God before us, God is nevertheless not far away. Quietly beside us... faithfully behind us... shielding us from above... God will never give up on us. For God is forever ready to shower us with grace and new life, and accept our invitations to return to leading us along paths that bring us joy and pleasures forevermore. Thanks be to God! 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. World with-out end, world with-out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-gin-ning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

Epistle

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

¹¹And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

Reflection

“Provoking One Another”

Hymn*Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

CH266

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/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.**

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

Bobbi Giardina

*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, may these gifts and offerings make a difference in this life of the community we love, serve, and reflect. May these gifts and offerings extend beyond the borders and boundaries of the stones that encase us to the world that needs us. May these gifts and offerings be a balm to a world in need of comfort and a fire to a world in need of refining. May it begin within us and flourish beyond us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

CH453

***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, November 17

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle

11:45 a.m. Advent Planning Meeting

5:00 p.m. PFLAG Mansfield Tolland

Monday, November 18

7:00 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

Tuesday, Nov. 19 through Friday, Nov. 22

All day - Quiet Corner Quilt Camp

Wednesday, November 20

1:00 p.m. Book Group

Thursday, November 21

7:00 p.m. Choir