



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

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Charles Ericson, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**January 19, 2025 — Second Sunday after the Epiphany
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend**

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

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Centering in the Spirit

L: Our faith story is full of dreamers.

P: We remember Jacob, who dreamed of a ladder stretching up to heaven;

L: We remember how dreams played a part in the birth of Jesus;

P: We remember the day of Pentecost, when Peter told of elders who would dream dreams.

L: Today, we especially remember the inspiring dream of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

P: And we open our hearts and minds to new dreams of equality, peace and justice.

***Opening Hymn**

Woke Up This Morning

CH623

Prayer for Transformation

Creating God, we celebrate being made in your image: equipped with boundless imagination, capable of bringing forth wonders and miracles, endowed with unconditional love and limitless potential. Each morning we wake up intending to live up to these high hopes and ideals. So often we succeed, though there are indeed times when don't. You know all too well, Holy One, that though we may be made in your image, we are far from perfect. Our shortcomings, prejudices and fragile egos sometimes get the better of us. As we worship together this morning, may we feel your grace, mercy and love pouring out upon us — lifting us up...redeeming and healing us...so that we may more fully reflect your image in the hours and days to come. In Jesus' Name we ask this. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Our amazing and ever-present God made us in the divine image on the day we were each born, and surely can restore our divine image when it has become tarnished. Right now. Right here. May we rise up with fresh faith and new dreams, believing that we are indeed new creations — redeemed...re-imaged...re-born...re-energized...to love, serve and rejoice. Amen.

*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 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-ginning, 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

I Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Gospel

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection "Activated...Or Why I Cannot Be a Fundamentalist"

Hymn *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

CH592

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

As a community of God's people, we dream together of how we can make our world a better place through prayer, outreach ministries, service and personal witness. And when we give generously, selflessly and joyfully, our dreams spring to life. In these moments when our gifts and offerings are given and received, listen...look around...let your imagination soar. A new dream is being born.

*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,*

Musical Offering "Show Me the Way" by Ruth Kennerly
Offered by Cheryl Chase, Laurel Thurman, and Erik Haeger

*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

God of endless possibilities, we ask your blessing upon the offerings we have given today, and pray that they may become the foundation of unfolding dreams for our church — dreams that give rise to newfound hope, reconciliation and love in our community and beyond. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

CH589

*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, January 19

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle
Second Hour Budget Info Meeting following worship

Wednesday, January 22

1:00 p.m. Book Group

Thursday, January 23

9:30 a.m. Quilting Group

Sunday, January 26

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle
Congregational Meeting immediately after worship