



**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, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**May 25, 2025
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

We welcome the Rev. Don Francois as our guest minister this morning.

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

Don Baxter

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit

Bill Briggs

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

All: Let our joy be complete!

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

All: Love one another!

One: Strangers and neighbor, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

All: No longer servants but friends!

One: Come, let our worship make a beautiful noise,

All: Rejoicing in the friendship of God

***Opening Hymn**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

CH5

Prayer for Transformation

Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, O God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Forgive us and free us from guilt and shame so that we might embrace a life of accountability and transformation for the glory of God and for the hope of humanity. Amen.

moment of silence

Good creation of God, the Holy One has begun a good work in you and will see it through to completion. You have power to transform and grace to enter the newness of life. God is near and comes down with us. Receive God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace as the gift that has been given. It is available, yours, and enough.

4

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-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!

²³ Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate,^[a] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

CH561

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a small '9' at the beginning. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

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.**

Invitation to Generosity

Blessed are we when we bring forth our gifts for the needs of the poor, the pursuit of justice, the nurturing of community, the honoring of difference, and the goal of the common good. Woe to us when we mistake abundance as scarcity and generosity as a handout. God has given enough gifts for all to be well. By sharing our blessings, we demonstrate faith, trust and love.

*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

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line. A small '5' is at the beginning of the second staff.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Generous God, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your redemptive work to save the world from inequities, pain, and despair. May our resources be renewed and magnified so that all needs are met and your name be praised. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

This Is My Song

CH722

***Benediction**

Go in the freedom of new life in Christ.
Go in the liberty that transcends the ways of the world.
Go in the hope, power, and peace of the good news. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you always.
And also with you.
Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude

Parts of our liturgy this morning are from ***Worship Ways*** written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

About our Guest Minister: The Rev. Don Francois is a retired pastor of the Tolland Association, UCC. He served as a pastor of the Ellington Congregational Church for twenty-four years, as Bridge Pastor at Enfield and Columbia UCC churches and as Interim Pastor of the Second Congregational Church of Coventry which is now his spiritual home. Don and his wife, Laurie, reside in Ellington.

The Week Ahead...

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| TODAY | 2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible CT |
| Monday, May 26 | 6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal |
| Wednesday, May 28 | 1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee |
| Sunday, June 1 | 10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle; Communion Sunday 11:30 a.m. Potluck lunch with the Pastoral Search Committee 1:30 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible CT |

Please join the Pastoral Search Committee for a **Potluck Lunch next Sunday, June 1**, where they will share an overview of the survey results.

Sunday, June 8 following worship:

Search Committee **focus group with parents** who have children who participate in the worship circle. This will last approximately 45 minutes. Childcare will be provided during that time.