



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

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

860-423-9008 [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info)

Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Charles Ericson, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**June 8, 2025  
Pentecost Sunday**

## **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**

Erik Haeger

#### **Centering in the Spirit**

Jo-Ann Wunschel

Leader: Long ago in Jerusalem, people gathered from near and far on this day to celebrate their faith.

**All: Today we also gather from all over, here in Mansfield Center, to celebrate our faith.**

Leader: On that day long ago, people had come from Judea, Pontus, Egypt and Rome, Crete and Asia.

**All: Today we come from Windham, Hampton, Ashford, Coventry, Eastford and other towns and cities... sometimes as far away as Europe.**

Leader: On that first Christian Pentecost, a mighty wind descended and brought life to the early church.

**All: It was the wind of the Holy Spirit, and it continues to descend upon us and give us life.**

Leader: As the Spirit moved among them, the early believers were challenged to dream new dreams.

**All: The very same Spirit is surely moving among us now; may we seek it together as we worship this morning and dream new dreams together as God's people.**

#### **\*Opening Hymn**

*There's a Spirit in the Air*

CH257

#### **Prayer for Transformation**

God of visions and dreams, we remember that your people were bewildered on that first Pentecost because your Spirit was bringing them a divine message, and though they had come from different lands and spoke different languages, they each heard the message in their own native tongue. In many ways, the same is true for us today. Through your Spirit's inspiration, you speak to our hearts and we each perceive your divine message in a unique way that is shaped by our own senses and experiences. In these next few moments of silence, may we be alert to your eternal message of love, grace and new life, as we each listen in our own individual ways. Amen.

*moment of silence*

## Words of Grace

Kindred in faith, our God has heard the silent prayers of our hearts, and the Spirit is responding in a manner that we can each receive according to our own unique understanding. The message is the same for all: Grace abounds...God's mercy is limitless...We are freed from the burdens of the past...Freed to rise up transformed and reborn...called by the Spirit of Pentecost to boldly go forth to dream new dreams and shape new visions together!

### \*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!

### Hebrew Scripture

#### Genesis 11:1-9

**11** Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. **2** And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. **3** And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and fire them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone and bitumen for mortar. **4** Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." **5** The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. **6** And the Lord said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. **7** Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." **8** So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. **9** Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth, and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

### Christian Scripture

#### Acts 2:1-21

**2** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. **5** Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,  
and they shall prophesy.  
<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

**Reflection** "Dreams, Visions and Prophecies" Rev. Chuck Ericson

**Hymn** *Spirit* **CH249**

**Prayer for Pentecost** **When We Breathe Together**  
***A Blessing for Pentecost Day***  
*by Jan L. Richardson* Julie Menard

This is the blessing  
we cannot speak  
by ourselves.

This is the blessing  
we cannot summon  
by our own devices,  
cannot shape  
to our purpose,  
cannot bend  
to our will.

This is the blessing  
that comes  
when we leave behind  
our aloneness  
when we gather  
together  
when we turn  
toward one another.

## Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



## 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

Not long after Pentecost, the first generation of believers began to spread the good news of Jesus throughout Jerusalem and beyond. They faithfully followed the example of Jesus, too, extravagantly sharing their goods and possessions so that no one was in need. May our gifts be given and received in the same manner — out of Christ-like generosity for the sake of our neighbors near and far whose needs are greater than our own. The morning offering will now be received.

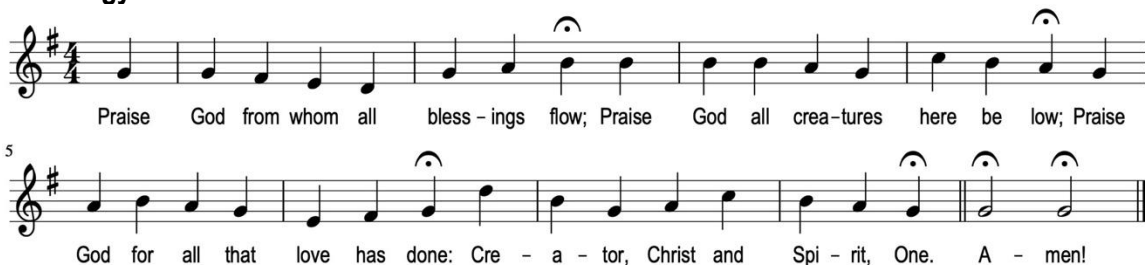
*Your financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates as they come around,  
or mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, PO Box 36, Mansfield Center, CT 06250,*

## Musical Offering

*Down in My Heart (I've Got the Joy)  
by George W. Cooke*

Children's Worship Circle

## \*Doxology



**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Your Pentecost Spirit moves among us still, Holy One, and inspires us to give generously so that your dreams and visions for our congregation may be realized. Please bless the gifts and offerings we bring to you now so that, through our giving, the lives of our neighbors and the world may be transformed. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Be Thou My Vision*

CH595

**\*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**

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***THE WEEK AHEAD...***

**TODAY**

10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle  
11:30 a.m. Parents' Focus Group  
3:00 p.m. Take Note Donor Appreciation Concert

**Wednesday, June 11**

1:00 p.m. Book Group  
5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee

**Thursday, June 12**

6:00 p.m. Governing Board (Zoom)

**Sunday, June 15**

10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle  
11:30 a.m. Intergenerational Music Making  
5:00 p.m. PFLAG Mansfield Tolland