



**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

June 29, 2025

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

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit

Bill Briggs

L: When so much around us seems meaningless, God shows us what is holy.

A: We come to worship this morning seeking what is holy.

L: When things seem mundane, God sends us wonder and glory.

A: We come this morning ready to behold God's wonder and glory.

L: When feelings of regret consume us, God offers us grace and redemption.

A: We come this morning with open hearts to accept God's grace and redemption.

L: Come, friends, God is waiting to pour out all these gifts upon us now!

**A: And we are ready to receive holiness, wonder, grace, and so much more as the hour of
worship begins!**

***Opening Hymn**

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

CH64

Prayer for Transformation

God of Grace, sometimes the call to follow you comes softly and gently. At other times, your call rushes in with urgency and may even overwhelm us as we balance the obligations of the day with the needs of the day. Gift us with discernment to know what needs our attention, focus, and energy. Free us of distractions, even and especially the ones we create for ourselves. At the same time remind us how to breathe and to be gracious toward one another. We travel a road we have not built and have not journeyed before. We rely upon you to demonstrate the way and lead us into the fullness of life and your kingdom. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Beloved, the grace of God companions with you along the road. We journey this life in Christ, through Christ, and with Christ. Trust and rely upon the wisdom of the Everlasting One who knows you, the gifts you bring, and the burdens you bear. New life and transformation, as all things, are possible with God. Receive God's grace to free you from fear in order to embrace the journey.

*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, 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
end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men.

was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

Christian Scripture

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

5 ¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³ but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my

home.”⁶² And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Reflection

“Focus”

Rev. Chuck Ericson

Hymn

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

CH344

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.

9 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

When we give generously of our resources, our gifts witness to God’s abundance, provision, and care. When we give, our gifts demonstrate our appreciation, trust, and compassion to God. Let us give as witnesses of the glory of God and the love of God in the world.

*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

“Woodstock” by Joni Mitchell

Cheryl Chase

***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 our Provider, receive these gifts for your creation, for your kingdom, for your glory.
Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

We Call Ourselves Disciples

CH357

***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**

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

Liturgical resources for the Third Sunday after Pentecost were written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Our cantor today is Laurel Thurman. Deb Richards is our greeter. And the Clausons are today's fellowship hour hosts.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Tuesday, July 1

5:30 p.m. Worth Fighting For/Indivisible

Wednesday, July 2

5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee

Thursday, July 3

9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service

Saturday, July 5

12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts