



**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

**July 13, 2025**

**Fifth 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**

Gary Cote

Leader: Rejoice, for this is God's sanctuary — a sacred place... a safe place.

**All: Here in God's sanctuary the worries we may bring with us are blessed with peace.**

Leader: Here in God's sanctuary the questions we may bring with us are blessed with wisdom.

**All: Here in God's sanctuary the prayers we may bring with us are blessed with hope.**

Leader: Here in God's sanctuary the sorrows we may bring with us are blessed with compassion.

**All: Here in God's sanctuary the joys we may bring with us are blessed with affirmation.**

Leader: Indeed, every need...every yearning...every feeling we bring with us is blessed by God...

**All: ...here in God's sanctuary — the sacred place... the safe place... where we delight to  
gather together each week.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**CH464**

**Prayer for Transformation**

God of Grace and Glory, as our hymn reminds us, you do indeed pour your power upon us. From the moment we were each born, as we mature and grow, you pour out upon us the power to do great and magnificent things — to imagine... to create... to serve... to risk... to change lives and to make a difference. Sometimes, though, we forget that we have this gift of power, and we avoid challenges that seem too hard, we look the other way when we come up against a roadblock, we can sometimes use our power in ways that are neither healthy or kind. In these next few moments of holy silence, hear us, O God, as we bring our struggles with power to you...and open our hearts to being transformed. Amen.

*moment of silence*

## Words of Grace

Our ever-listening God has heard us — each and every one of us — and once again is pouring power upon us: the power of grace and mercy, the power of understanding and forgiveness... the power of new life. With hope and gratitude, let us accept God's generous gift of transformation and rejoice!

### \*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.

### Hebrew Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

<sup>9</sup>...and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup> when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup> "Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

### Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell

into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**Reflection** "More Here than Meets the Eye"

**Hymn** *Standing in the Need of Prayer*

**CH579**

**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/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**

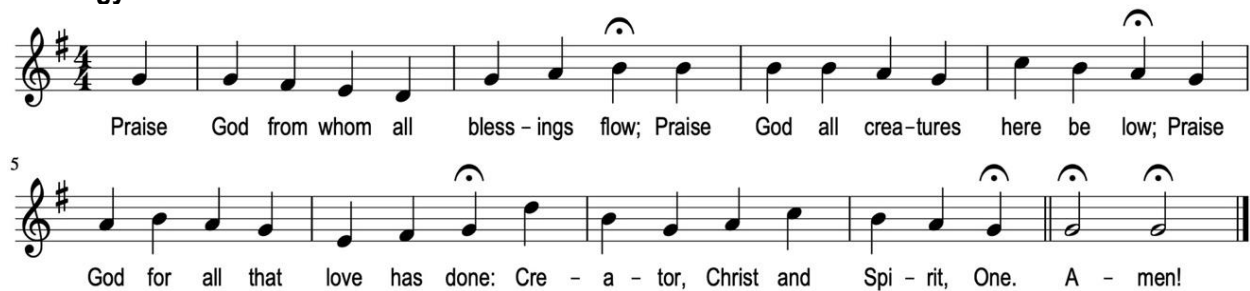
Loving our neighbors often begins with tender feelings and heartfelt prayers; but it requires more. Loving our neighbors requires action...commitment...and generosity. The gifts we dedicate to God during this time of worship are visible signs of our generosity and devotion as they become transformed into acts of love through the ministries and mission of our church. In this spirit, 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**

Erik Haeger

## Doxology



## \*Prayer of Dedication

Compassionate and Healing God, please accept these offerings that we dedicate to you now, and transform them into acts of love and hope that bless our neighbors who are in great need in both nearby and faraway places, for these gifts represent our promise not to “pass by on the other side of the road”. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

## \*Closing Hymn

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

CH665

## \*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

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## THE WEEK AHEAD:

### TODAY

2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible

### Tuesday, July 15

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

### Wednesday, July 16

10:00 a.m. Celebration of the Life of Carol McMillan

### Saturday, July 19

12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

### Sunday, July 20

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle

5:00 p.m. PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland