



**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

**September 14, 2025
Fourteenth 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 (*inspired by Psalm 51*)

Gary Coté

One: In the timeless words of the Psalmist, we join our voices to say:

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

One: Now is the time when we can cleanse our hearts from all that accumulates during the week.

All: At this hour, we can purge our hearts of anger, resentment, impatience, envy and vengeance.

One: Here is the place where we can cleanse our hearts from all that accumulates during the week.

All: For this holy place where we gather is safe, accepting, and God's Spirit surrounds us.

One: These are the people who enable each to cleanse our hearts of all that accumulates during the week.

All: For we offer one another unconditional and unlimited grace, peace, affirmation and love.

One: So let our hearts be cleansed of all that troubles or worries us — as we sing, pray, listen and speak;

All: And let a new and right spirit fill our souls and lead us forward in faith!

***Opening Hymn**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

CH15

Prayer for Transformation

Holy One, there are times when our hearts need more than cleansing. Our hearts can be broken from loss and disappointment; our hearts can become cold from experiences of hurt or rejection; our hearts can become hardened when our hopes and dreams are not fully realized. We long for the the transformative power of your Spirit that heals, warms and softens our hearts and restores within each of us a "new and right spirit". Please bless us with the healing, warmth and softening that our hearts are seeking, as we pause in silence now. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Faithful friends, in the midst of these moments of holy silence, our God has heard the murmurings of each of our hearts. Already, God has been responding — sending us what we have asked for and what our hearts need: healing, warmth, softening, cleansing. Our hearts have begun beating stronger and steadier. Listen...give thanks...and live!

*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
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-gin-ning, 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

Exodus 32:7-14

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Prophets

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

“For my people are foolish; they do not know me; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil but do not know how to do good.” I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos, and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. I looked, and there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger. For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.

Reflection

“Imploring God”

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

Though we may wish that God would sweep away all the problems of the world and usher in an era of universal peace and prosperity, that is not God's way. Instead, God has entrusted us with the task of caring for Creation, and calls upon us to: overcome poverty and hunger, preserve the environment and inspire people and nations to live in peace and love. Through our church's ministries, we labor together to bring these goals to fruition, supported by the gifts and offerings we now dedicate to God.

*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 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

***Prayer of Dedication**

We feel greatly blessed, Gracious and Loving God, the you invite us to share with you in caring for all of Creation: the environment...our neighbors who yearn for better health and opportunity... and the eternal longing for world peace. We pray that the gifts we bring to you today can support our church's mission to fulfill these endeavors. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Hope of the World

CH538

***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, September 14

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle

2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible

Monday, September 15

6:30 p.m. Take Note! Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 16

3:00 p.m. Creation Justice meeting

5:30 p.m. Worth Fighting For (Indivisible)

Wednesday, September 17

1:00 p.m. Book Group

5:00 p.m. Meditation Group

5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee

Thursday, September 18

9:30 a.m. Quilt Group