



**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
Rev. Don Erickson, Pastor
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator
Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

January 18, 2026

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

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Silent Prayer for Transformation (a moment to pause, reflect, and renew)

Words of Grace

Your grace means we're free to start again, O God. May this very moment, pervaded by your presence, be a moment of renewal. You are here, now with us, and all is well. Amen.

Centering in the Spirit (from David Haas)

Cheryl Chase

One: Come and be light for our eyes;
be the air we breathe, be the voice we speak
All: Come, be the song we sing, be the path we seek
Your life was given; food for all people,
body and blood, new life in our midst
Life is our present, life is our future;
Jesus, Messiah, anointed to save
We hold your presence, for ever with us,
Your name now names us people of love
Filled with your vision, people of compassion,
healing, forgiving; light for the world
Lead us to justice, light in the darkness;
singing, proclaiming you are our light
Teach us to speak, and help us to listen
for when your truth and our dreams embrace

Psalm

Psalm 40:1-11


*Unyielding, I called to you, Adonai,
now at last you have stooped to me
and answered my cry for help.
You have pulled me out
of the Pit of Destruction,
out of its mud and quicksand;
you set my feet on a rock
and made my steps firm.
You put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to you.
Many will look on in wonder
and so will put their trust in you.
Happiness comes to those
who put their trust in Adonai,
instead of in human egos
or people blind to the truth!
How many wonders you've worked for us,
Adonai, my God!
How many plans you've made for us;
you have no equal!
I want to recount them again and again,
but their number is too great.
You don't desire sacrifice or oblation,
instead you made my ears receptive to you;*

*you asked no burnt offering
or sacrifice for sins from me.
And so I declared,
"Here I am! I have come!
In the scroll of the book
it is written about me."
I desire to do your will, my God,
and your law is written in my heart.
I'll proclaim your justice
in the Great Assembly,
and I won't keep my mouth shut,
as you well know.
I have never kept
your generosity to myself,
but announced your
faithfulness and saving action;
I have made no secret
of your love and faithfulness
in the Great Assembly.
For your part, Lord God,
don't withhold your love from me!
Let your kindness and faithfulness
constantly protect me!*

*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.

Gospel

John 1:1-5, 14

*In the beginning, there was the Word;
the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.
The Word was present to God
from the beginning.
Through the Word
all things came into being,
and apart from the Word
nothing came into being
that has come into being.
In the Word was life,*

*and that life was humanity's light—
a Light that shines in the darkness,
a Light that the darkness has never
overtaken.*

*And the Word became flesh
and stayed for a little while among us;
we saw the Word's glory—
the favor and position
a parent gives an only child—
filled with grace, filled with truth.*

Reflection

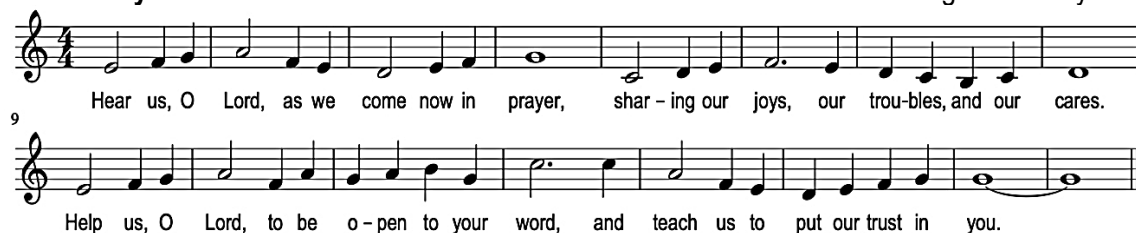
The Marks of Our Thriving Church: Creativity

Rev. Don Erickson

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 with whatever language is comfortable for you.
The following are offered as examples...*

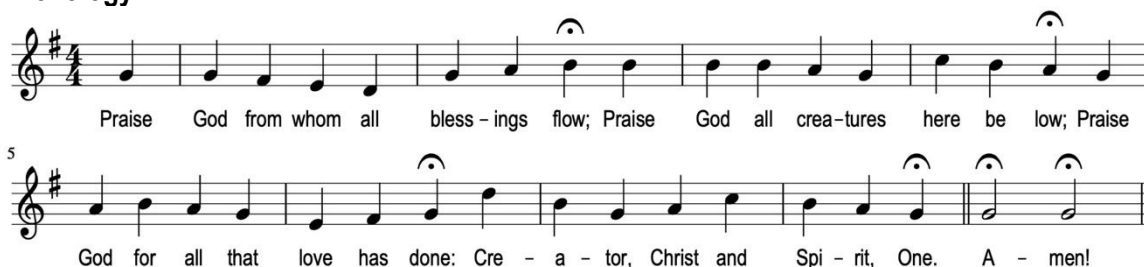
**Our Father/Mother/Creator,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts/sins/trespases,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
And *help us yield not to*/Lead 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

Offertory

Erik Haeger

*Doxology



***Prayer of Dedication** (in unison)

Ever-Present and Calling God, knowing us from the beginning, naming us as your own, you have entrusted us with the holy work of bearing your light to the world. Though we often feel unworthy or uncertain, you remind us that your grace goes before us, and your strength works through us. Receive these gifts, offered with gratitude and hope. Use them—and us—to proclaim your justice, to shine your love and to glorify your name. In the name of Christ, , we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CH 2

***Closing Words**

Winter Embers (a poem by Barbara Dobrocki)

*At the slider door I look outside to
See a backyard view of the setting sun
The colors of a Chagall stained-glass window.*

*A red-orange glow perches on the horizon
Framed between black tree trunks
Their bare, webbed branches reach to
The sky's dappled arc of soft orange
And pale purple wispy clouds with tones
Of peach and gray-blue higher up
As if the whole scene was an enormous bird's
Wing of long feathers spread wide.*

*A sudden flash lights the sky
Like an ah-ha moment.*

*Then dusk's slow descent.
Absent of breezes.
No animal or bird sounds.*

*Embers faint glitter settle as
I rest in deep peace.*

***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

Our Greeter this morning is Lisa Peterson-Blinn
Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman
Coffee Hour is hosted by Diane Wright and Carol Drescher

**THERE WILL BE A BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY.**

THE WEEK AHEAD....

Sunday, January 18

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle

11:15 a.m. Budget Information Meeting

5:00 p.m. PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland

Wednesday, January 21

1:00 p.m. Book Group

5:00 p.m. Meditation Group

Thursday, January 22

9:30 a.m. Quilt Group

10-11 a.m. Coffee with Rev Don (Price Chopper food court)

Sunday, January 25

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle

11:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting

3:00 p.m. Take Note rehearsal & potluck