



# 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

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**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*God Is Here*

CH 280

**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



9  
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 with whatever language is comfortable for you.*

*The following are offered as examples...*

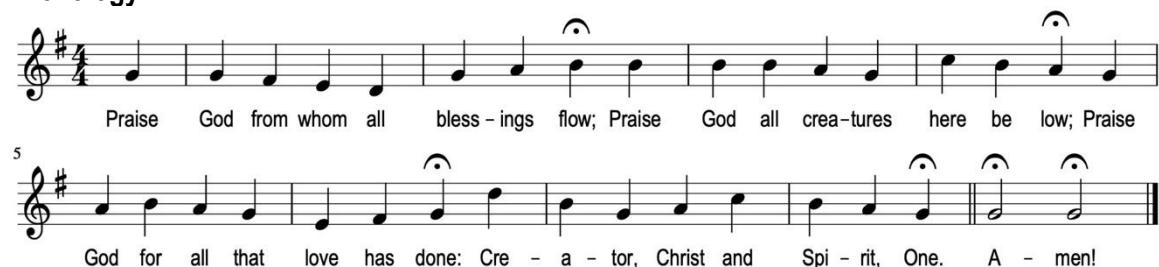
**Our Father/Mother/Creator,**  
**who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**  
**Thy kingdom come.**  
**Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread,**  
**and forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses,**  
**as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against 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



5  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done: Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen!

**\*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