



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church
The Rev. Don Erickson, Pastor
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator
Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

June 21, 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

Call to Worship

Gary Cote

There is no hope like you, O God!

Hope for those who cry out from the deserts of their lives.

There is no grace like you, O God!

Grace for those rejected, ignored, and cast aside by the world.

There is no love like you, O God!

**Love for those who have known days of trouble
and nights of loneliness.**

There is no one like you, O God!

No one! No one! No one!

Prayer for Illumination

Call to Reconciliation / Prayer of Confession

When we would keep our faults and failings in the shadows, you call us to bring them into the light of your grace and forgiveness. With such a promise, with such a hope, how can we not confess to the One who loves us so much? Join me as we pray together, saying,

It is never easy to confess our sins to you, Listener to our words. When we have a chance to speak up for the outsider, we too often join in sending them away into the wilderness of hopelessness. When we could shout good news to a needy world, our voices drop to a whisper. When we could abound in grace, we continue to wallow in wrongdoing. Forgive us, Hearer of our hearts, and have mercy on us. You lean over

to listen to our words, and then to cast them into your sea of forgetfulness. You show us your signs of hope, that we might point others to you. You help us when we are weakest and, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you save us when we cannot save ourselves.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Grace

Do not be afraid. God cherishes us, God treasures you, beyond all else in creation. You are graced, you are forgiven, you are healed.

We will not keep this good news to ourselves. We will shout our hope from the rooftops of our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

CH 73

Hebrew Scripture

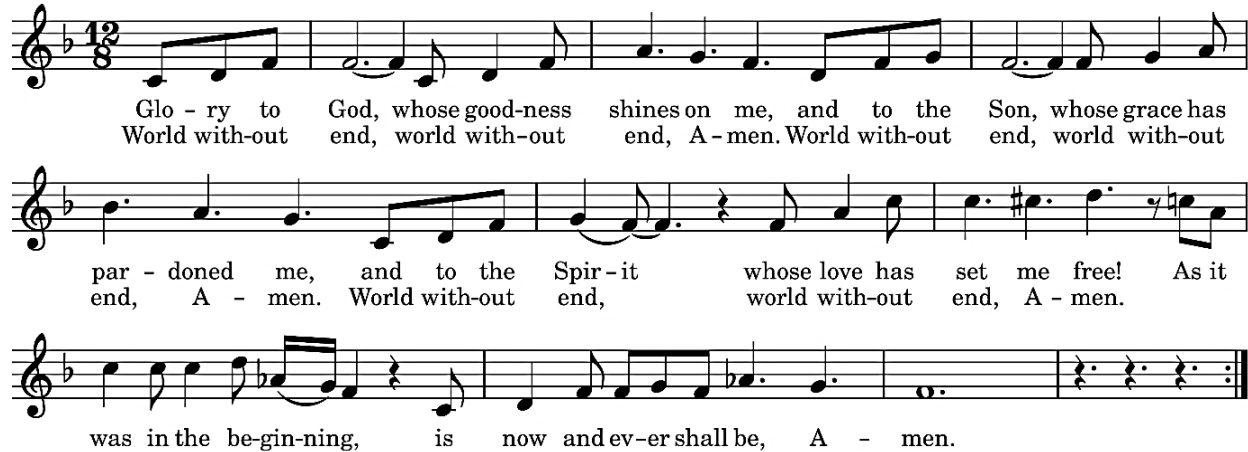
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

*Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.
Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.
In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.
There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God...
Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your maidservant.
Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted 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 Reading

Luke 6:20-26

Looking at his disciples, he said:

*“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.*

*Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.*

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

*“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.*

*Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.*

*Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.*

*Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.*

Pastoral Meditation

Some Answers

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a small '9' at the beginning. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Please pray 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

Both Sides Now (J. Mitchell)

Bobbi Giardina

*Doxology

5 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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes marked with a fermata. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a small '5' at the beginning. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

Joyful Giver of Miracles, we come to you with hearts open to the unexpected, for you are the God who surprises us with joy, even in seasons of waiting and even through our disbelief. You meet us in the ordinariness of welcome, and you plant seeds of laughter that

bloom into life. Bless these gifts, O God, that they may bear witness to your goodness and extend joy, hope, and welcome to the world you so love. May our giving be a reflection of our faith, and may our faith be full of laughter. In the name of the one who brings life out of impossibility, Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

CH 86

***Closing Prayer**

***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

Portions of this morning's liturgy were written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman in *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies Year A* (2013). Permission has been granted.

Our greeter this morning is Deb Richard.

Our cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Our Digital Ministers are Robert Johnson and Penny Guerin.

Coffee hour is hosted by John & Katie Clauson.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship!

THE WEEK AHEAD...

TODAY

5:00 pm PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland

Monday-Friday, June 22 – 26

Quiet Corner Quilt Camp

Wednesday, June 24

1:00 pm Book Group

SAVE THE DATE!

**Our June Congregational Meeting will take place on
Sunday, June 28th immediately following worship.**

Have You Seen Our Missing Communion Cup?

One of our small, silver communion cups has gone missing. We kindly ask that you check your pew - under the cushion, on the floor, tucked in the hymnal rack, in the tissue box, etc. If you know of its whereabouts or accidentally took it home, please place it on the communion table. Thank you for your help!

Help with Summer Worship Services

We'll begin our summer with a time of transition. While the church leadership lines up pulpit supply for summer worship, we're looking for folks to help out. Please sign up for the various Sunday roles on the clipboard at the front of the sanctuary. Also, if you are willing to plan and lead a service (including providing a Reflection,) please let a member of the Ministry of Spiritual Life know (David Darnell, Bobbi Giardina, Laurel Thurman.)