



**The 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

Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Reverend Dr. Susan J. Foster, Bridge Minister
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

September 27, 2026 ~ The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Thoughts for the Week

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

"Praise God even when you don't understand what He is doing."
Henry Jacobsen (Politician, 1898-1964)

Playing the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Call to Worship

Jo-Ann Wunschel

Leader: Loving God, you are the Creator of all we see. Great is your faithfulness.

People: God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, you do not change.

Leader: Holy God, we can depend on you. You will never leave us or forsake us.

People: Morning by morning new mercies we see. Great is your faithfulness.

Leader: Come, let us lift up our hearts and worship God.

People: Let us worship God with words, our actions, and our lives. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

CH 86

Prayer of Confession and New Life

followed by a brief time of silent prayer

Friends, hear the Good News - God so loved this world - and every single person in it - so much that God gave his only Son. In Jesus Christ we see God face to face and we hear of his mercy. Standing therefore in Jesus Christ, I celebrate with you the Good News - that we are loved, we are forgiven, we are cherished by God. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Paul Vasile

4

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-ginning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

1. now and ev-er shall be, A - men 2. World with-out men!

First Reading

Psalm 25: 1-9

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.

Second Reading

Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah[a] and Meribah,[b] because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reflection

"Is God among us or not?"

Rev. Sue Foster

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision (verses 1 & 3)

CH 595

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to pray in whatever language is most comfortable for you. The following examples are offered:

**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 / help us yield not to temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

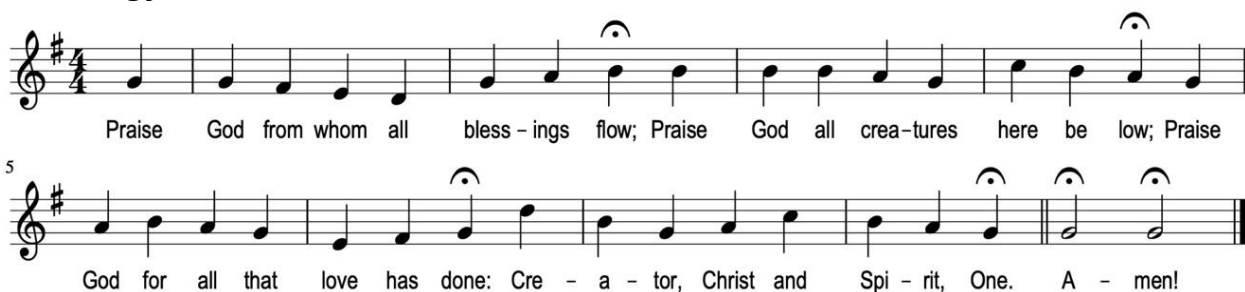
Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

*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 Thanksgiving**

Giving and generous God, we come before you with gratitude for all that you have provided. Help us to notice our blessings and give thanks. We ask that you use our offerings and use us to spread your hope, love, and unity in our community and in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

His Eye is on the Sparrow

CH 82

***Benediction**

***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

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!

Our worship service is made available digitally for those who cannot attend in person. Footage from this service may also be used in marketing materials for our community. If you do not wish to have your likeness recorded, streamed, or photographed please inform a Greeter who can seat you appropriately.

Our Greeter this morning is Lisa Peterson-Blinn.

Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Our Digital Minister is Deb Hubbell.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Laurel Thurman and Cheryl Chase.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

TODAY Advent Planning Meeting following the service

Monday, September 28

6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal

Wednesday, September 30

1:00 p.m. Book Group

5:00 p.m. Meditation Group

Thursday, October 1

9:30 a.m. Quilt Group

4:00 p.m. Administry Team meeting

5:30 p.m. Windham Regional Arts Council (downstairs)

6:00 p.m. Strategic Planning meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, October 3

12 p.m. Girl Scouts

NEXT SUNDAY – Celebration of World Communion Sunday - a day to share in the sacrament Holy Communion and celebrate global church unity.
