



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

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All the Members, Ministers + Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor
Sarah Kaufold, Choir Director + Erik Haeger, Organist

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + JUNE 20, 2021

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!*

Welcome and Greeting

Opening Hymn Eternal Father Strong to Save

***Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.***

***O Savior, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amid the rage did sleep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.***

***O Holy Spirit, who did brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give for wild confusion peace;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.***

***O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Your children shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea***

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

In our Hebrew scripture lesson the young man David, already secretly anointed by Samuel as king over Israel, arrives in Saul's encampment. Here the Israelites have engaged the Philistines. Goliath, a large and impressively arrayed Philistine warrior, has challenged the Israelites to produce duce anyone equal to him in battle, and David, hearing the challenge, volunteers. He goes to battle without the customary armor and fells Goliath with a single stone from his slingshot.

Years later, David wrote this Psalm as he reflected on his battle with Goliath.

O Lord, you are known by your acts of justice;
the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.
The wicked shall be given over to the grave,
and also all the peoples that forget you.
For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.
Rise up, O Lord, let not the ungodly have the upper hand;
let them be judged before you.

When in this past week have we forgotten the needs of the poor?
When have we resorted to judgement instead of leaving it to God?

Let us pray.

**God our protector,
you stood by David in the time of trial.
Stand with us through all life's storms,
giving us courage to risk danger
to protect those who are oppressed and poor,
that they may know you as their stronghold and hope. Amen.**

Gloria Patri

Traditional

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, and to the Christ, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

8
gin - ning, is now, and ev er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

Gospel

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Beisig

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

For the Church: that we may reach out to all who have been excluded or marginalized by our society and offer acceptance and inclusion in our community

For the grace to imitate Christ: that God will help us to love others, confront lies and injustice, and surrender ourselves in service to God and neighbor as did Jesus

For all who feel socially isolated: that those who have been ridiculed, laughed at, or bullied, may have their dignity as persons recognized and be welcomed into this faith community

For all who are physically isolated: that God will guide us in reaching out to them, assisting with their needs, and sharing faith with them

For all who are ill: that God will touch the sick and return them to wholeness, free the human family from the coronavirus, and speed the distribution of the vaccines

For change: that on this Juneteenth Sunday God might guide us, through the love revealed in Christ to establish the justice he proclaimed and all people might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other.

For openness to the Spirit: that we may be attentive to the invitations of God to grow and change during the coming Lenten season

For all who are suffering: that God will assist and guide to fulfillment all who are searching for jobs, a place to call home, food for their table, or healthcare

For greater stewardship of earth's resources: that God will help us understand the value of all living things and the wisdom to protect them for future generations

For peace: that God will inspire world leaders to take bold steps to end violence and promote justice through dialogue and understanding

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is most 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.**

Offering Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

*Offerings may be placed in the collection boxes at the entrances to our worship space,
mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC. Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250,
or given online at www.myfcc.info*

Fed for the Journey The Great Thanksgiving

Christ is with us here,
so let us open up our hearts to God and one another,
giving thanks to the Spirit with joy.

We sing your praises O Lord, and declare your deeds among all people,
for you called forth the world in love and shaped us as a people for yourself.

When we disfigured your image in us,
you restored us once again to the ancient beauty of your glory.

In Jesus you walked among us,
calming our fears,
and inspiring us to serve in unexpected places.

We remember how,
on the eve of death and yet living resurrection,
Jesus gathered with his disciples. Taking bread and cup, he gave you thanks, shared
them, and said, "Eat and drink and remember me."

Bless us with your Spirit,
that, as we share this bread and cup,
our hearts might be opened to
knowledge, patience, and kindness,
holiness, love, and truth.

*All are welcome to Jesus' Welcome Table.
We share Communion with gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.*

Musical Response

Santo Santo Santo
***¡Santo, santo, santo! mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres, Señor.***

***Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, Lord.***

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

About This Morning's Music. William Whiting wrote ***Eternal Father Strong to Save*** in 1860 in England. It has become a favorite of seafaring people in English-speaking countries. In America, its affiliation as the "Navy Hymn" is prompted in part by the practice dating from 1879 of concluding the Sunday services at the Naval Academy at Annapolis with the first stanza of this hymn. The first three stanzas of this hymn appeal to the Trinity

with Scripture passages where each Person controlled the sea, while the final stanza summarizes the hymn and promises continued praise “from land and sea.”

Every Time I Feel the Spirit is an African-American, or Negro, spiritual, a genre of traditional song that was the product of enslaved Africans living in the southern United States in the pre-Civil War era. Like most spirituals, *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* was inspired by a Biblical verse (Galatians 4:6) or story that resonated with the enslaved’s experiences of oppression and of their hope for freedom. Also like so many, its words signified more to those enslaved than they would convey to their enslavers.

WAIM Back to School Program provides vouchers from WAIM to eligible school families for school clothing and uniforms. Last year we assisted 401 students returning to classes with a brand new uniform or outfit for the first day of school. The BTS program assists Windham/Willimantic area families who are struggling financially and need to purchase uniforms or school clothes. Families receive vouchers later so that each child will have a uniform, new outfit for the first day of school. Vouchers are for \$25 per child. If you would like to donate to this program you can send a check to WAIM/BTS at P.O. Box 221, Willimantic, CT

The **No Freeze Shelter** is in need of sunscreen, insect repellent and camping supplies in these warm months when many without homes are camping.

Our **Blessing Box** on the Church’s front lawn is in need of replenishing. Breakfast foods and cereals, as well as toilet paper, are items in particular demand.

First Church Giving Opportunities

1st Sunday of the Month- Supportive Friends Sunday

- First Church Deacon’s fund
- The Community Meal program
- “Love Offerings” honoring our friends and family

2nd Sunday of the Month- Sheltering Sunday

- Holy Family Shelter & the No-Freeze Shelter
- Our First Church Building fund

3rd Sunday of the Month- Sustenance Sunday

Welcoming gifts of food items and funds for:

- The Soup Kitchen
- Our First Church Blessing Box
- Tuna Church for Access Agency

4th Sunday of the Month- School & Service Sunday:

-Items for Church World Service School Kits and Hygiene Kits

CALENDAR

Sunday, June 20 10:15am Worship with Holy Communion on the lawn

Wednesday, June 23 10:30am Book Group on the lawn

Thursday, June 24 7pm Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Sunday, June 27 10:15am Worship in the Sanctuary