



**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

All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + JULY 18, 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

Come and Find the Quiet Center

CHXXX

- 1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.***
- 2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.***
- 3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain;
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!***

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the First Book of Samuel: Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I

commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

When in this past week have we made assumptions about what someone needed rather than asking them?

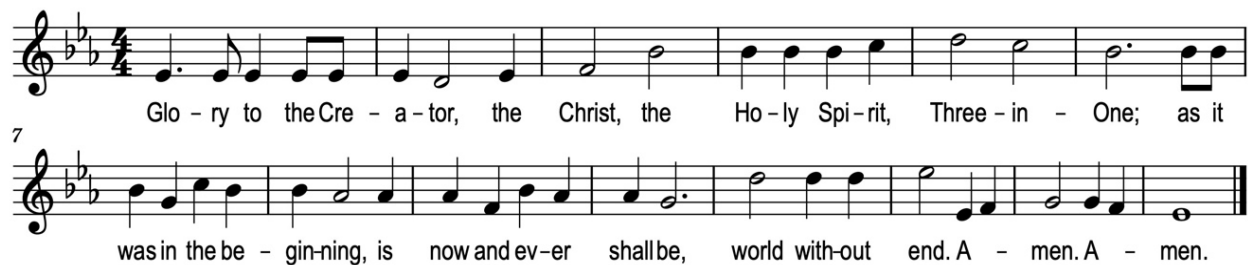
How are the ways we have care for those without a home?

Let us pray.

Holy God, you call us into a rhythm of work and rest that our lives may be the better for it. So shape our leisure and our labor, that the world will recognize us as Jesus' disciples and our ministry as what you would have us do. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greatorex



The musical score for 'Gloria Patri' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G, followed by quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, followed by quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

You make me lie down in green pastures and lead me beside still waters.

You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of God for ever.

The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.

Gospel

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Beisig and Nancy Price

Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

9

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 be witnesses to God's message, expressions of God's nurturing love, and instruments of God's healing care to all who find life's journey burdensome

For those overwhelmed by activity: that God will help them to slow down and be aware of the gifts and blessings that are in their life each day

For a spirit of compassion: that God will touch our hearts with care and concern for all whom we find burdensome, needy, or demanding

For all who exercise leadership: that they may place their gifts unselfishly in the service of others and draw forth the skills of others for the fulfillment of God's work

For all who offer retreats and places of solitude: that they will assist others in finding rest and in deepening their relationship with God

For support and renewal: that God will show a shepherd's care to refugees, those displaced by violence, and living under oppressive governments and help them find the resources that they need for life

For all living in densely populated settings: that they may find a space apart where they can find silence and experience God's presence within them and around them

For all who are suffering: that God will strengthen those recovering from natural disasters, give hope to those who have lost their homes, and give peace to those who are mourning

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

Shepherd Us O God

Marty Haugen

*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*

Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray.

**Giver of Rest and Renewal, bless our shared resources to the
rejuvenation of healers, helpers, and justice-makers that all might know
restoration and respite. Amen.**

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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, July 18	10:15am Worship with Holy Communion on the lawn
Wednesday, July 21	10:30am Book Group on the lawn
Sunday, July 25	10:15am Worship in the Sanctuary