



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

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All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + JULY 25, 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!

Playing the Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Opening Hymn

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

CH622

***Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;***

***I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.***

***Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.***

***Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;***

***let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.***

***strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.***

When I tread the verge of Jordan,

bid my anxious fears subside;

bear me through the swelling current;

land me safe on Canaan's side.

***songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.***

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes, "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

When in this past week have we resisted the power of God at work in us?
When have we not allowed Christ to dwell in our hearts?

Let us pray.

Sustainer of the hungry, like a mother you long to feed your children until each is satisfied. Turn our eyes to you alone, that, aware of our own deepest longings, we will reach out with Christ to feed others with the miracle of your love. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greatorex



Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it
7
was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:10-18

All your works praise you, O God,
and your faithful servants bless you.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

All your works praise you, O God,
and your faithful servants bless you.

Gospel

John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Beisig 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 and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. A small number '9' is positioned to the left of the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For the Church: that we may be open to God's generous love and be filled with gratitude for all the ways God has provided for us

For a spirit of generosity: that we may be free to share the blessings, the wisdom, and the hope God has given us with all who hunger and thirst for a fuller life

For the grace to bear with one another: that God will give us patience and gentleness to bear with one another through our differences and limits so that we can help one another follow God's call

For a deeper awareness of the hungers of our hearts: that God will help us to recognize our deepest desires that God has planted within us and guide us in bringing them to fulfillment

For the courage to serve others: that we may be open to opportunities to meet the needs of others and to generously respond to them even if our gifts or time seem too limited

For all who bring food to our table each day: that God will bless abundantly those who farm, transport, stock the shelves, and cook the food we eat and provide for them and their families

For all who endure hunger each day, particularly orphans, refugees, and the marginalized: that God will open avenues for food to reach them and help our hearts to be more sensitive to their needs and more aware of our abundance

For all who hunger for freedom: that God will free those imprisoned unjustly, caught in human trafficking, or who live under oppression, heal their pain, and give them hope

For all who endure hunger each day, particularly orphans, refugees, and the marginalized: that God will open avenues for food to reach them and help our hearts to be more sensitive to their needs and more aware of our abundance

For an end to the Covid pandemic: that God will curtail the virus, heal those with it, and give strength and courage to all who care for the sick

For all who are suffering: that God will send rain to end the drought, guide those fighting wildfires, and give strength to those recovering from disasters

*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.**

Musical Offering

*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.

**Spirit of Truth, you remind us that in togetherness our needs are met.
Where solidarity has been confused with the ways of greed, forgive us.**

We dedicate this offering to the work of your already here and yet-to-come kin-dom. Amen.

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, August 21st is the 30th Anniversary **Steeple Chase Ride/Walk!** The Steeple Chase Bike Tour is a charity fund-raiser for three area non-profit organizations: Windham Area Interfaith Ministry, Perception Programs and the Windham Region No Freeze Project. The Bike Tour features cycling and walking routes through scenic Northeastern Connecticut's Quiet Corner. Your help is needed to raise money to meet the increased needs of the clients served. Every dollar raised help each agency carry out its critical missions of supporting and assisting those most in need in our community. For more information go to www.steeplechasebiketour.org or register at bikereg.com

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 25 10:15am Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 28 10:30am Book Group on the lawn

Sunday, August 1 10:15am Worship with Holy Communion on the Lawn