



**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 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + SEPTEMBER 5, 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

Hymn

O Christ the Healer

CH503

6

11

O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
From ev - ery ail - ment are flesh and bones
How strong, O Christ, that des - troy our health
In that we all, made one in faith, in your com -
health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
know - ledge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -
be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
heal - ing truths un - con - sious pride re - sists or shelves.
clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Remembering Earth in the Season of Creation

Take the rosemary, a symbol of remembering, you received at the door, rub it between your fingers and bring to mind a special memory of Earth as a planet that stirred your spirit or sense of wonder.

As we hold this fragrant symbol, let us also remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, a mere stopping place en route to heaven.

We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins,
We have turned our greed into global warming.
We have helped cause arctic regions to melt.
We have loved progress more than the planet. We are sorry.

Christ hears our confession and forgives our sins.
Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and the planet as a precious sanctuary.

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.

Epistle

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in

peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146

Praise God, O my soul! I will praise God as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.

**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in their God;

**Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
whose promise abides for ever;**

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed and food to those who hunger.

God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind;

God lifts up those who are bowed down; The Most High loves the righteous;
the Most High cares for the stranger;

God sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

God shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Gospel

Mark 7:24-30

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go--the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Reflection

Joseph Blotz

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.

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 a spirit of welcome and hospitality in our assembly: that all who join us for worship, community, or service may experience the love of Christ and a warm welcome

For a greater recognition of our call to be stewards of God's creation: that we may experience a new relationship with the created world that God has commended to our care and work to promote the wise use of its resources

For all world leaders: that they recognize the dignity of all people regardless of status, wealth, or social position and seek to meet the basic needs of every person

For all who are fearful and anxious: that they may find hope and courage in God's Word and the fellowship of this community

For all who have experienced abuse, discrimination, or hatred: that God will heal their pain and renew their spirits

For all who work with the poor and homeless: that they may continually see Christ in all whom they meet

For all recovering from Hurricane Ida: that God will protect them from further harm, renew their energy, and speed the assistance which they need

For all suffering from the power of nature: that God will guide and assist the people of Haiti as they recover from the earthquake and hurricane and send beneficial weather to all the areas that are struggling with wildfires

For those fleeing violence, particularly the people of Afghanistan: that God will protect those in danger, lead them to places of safety, and help them to find a warm welcome in their new communities

For all healthcare workers: that God will keep them safe, renew their energy, and work through them to bring healing and strength to all who are ill

For all who labor whether at home or in the workplace: that God will guide them as they provide healing, nourishment, safety, or resources and renew them in mind, body, and spirit for the good of all who depend upon them

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is most comfortable for you.

The following are offered as examples...

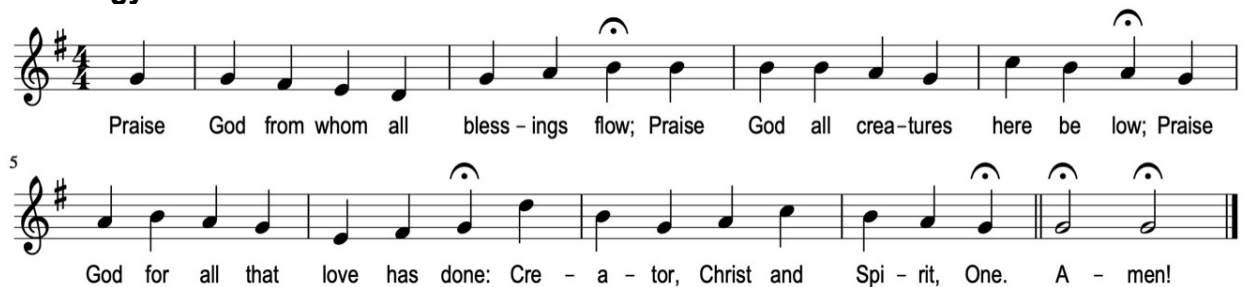
**Our Father/Mother/Creator,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Musical Offering

XXX

*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



Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

Fed for the Journey

The Great Thanksgiving

All are welcome to Jesus' Welcome Table.

We share Communion with gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

Musical Response

Santo Santo Santo

Traditional

San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My
 co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!
 heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly Lord!

Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

CH61

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,
 all thing wise and won - der - ful, in love God made them all. Each
 The The
 lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - the bird that sings, God
 pur - ple head - ed moun - tain, the riv - er run - ning by, the
 cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun, the
 made their glow - ing col - ors, and made their ti ny wings.
 sun - set and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
 ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one!

Benediction

CALENDAR

- Sunday, September 5 10:15am Worship
- Wednesday, September 8 10:30am Book Group on the lawn
- Thursday, September 9 5:30 Governing Board on Zoom
- Sunday, September 12 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle