



**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 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + SEPTEMBER 19, 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**

**All Creatures of our God and King**

**CH22**

5

All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing: Al-le-  
O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n a - long: O -  
O flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your God to hear: Al-le-  
And all for - giv - en ten - der hearts, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take your part, sing

9

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gold - en beam, O  
praise God, Al - le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, you  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O blaz - ing fire who lights the night, pro -  
prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! You who long pain and sor - row bear, praise

12

sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise God, O  
lights of eve - ning find a voice,  
vid - ing warmth, en - hanc - ing sight,  
God who knows your ev - 'ry care.

praise God, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Remembering Sky in the Season of Creation

Take the bubbles you received at the door into your hands. I invite you to bring to mind a special memory of air or wind that stirred that had stirred a spirit or sense of wonder... flying kites... blowing bubbles... gentle breezes... giant gusts...

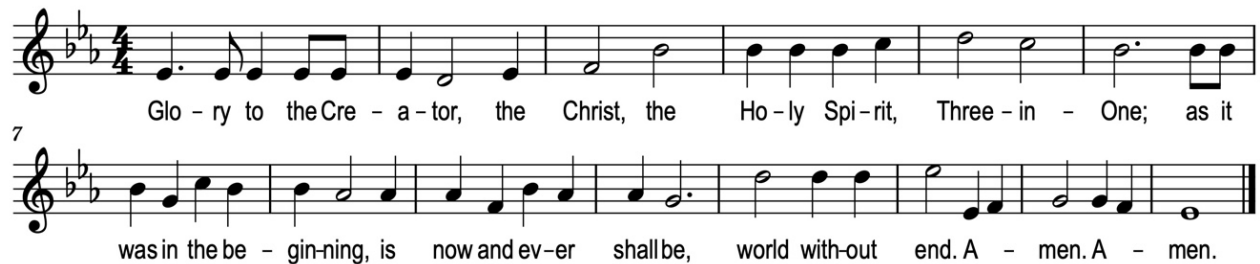
As we hold these bubbles, let us also remember and confess that we have become alienated from air and viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, a mere stopping place en route to heaven.

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.

And let us remember too that Christ hears our confession and forgives our sins.  
May the Spirit teach us to love Earth as our home.  
work to heal its ills,  
and know the planet as a precious sanctuary.

## Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greatorex



## Epistle

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not

receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Holy One,  
and they meditate on that law day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows  
away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous;

**For the Holy One knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

### Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

### 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.

## **Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus**

For the Church: that we may be servants of one another, particularly of those in need, and thus bear witness to God's love for everyone

For greater recognition of the harm being done to the earth: that world leaders and each of us may take meaningful steps to curtail the environmental damage of the planet and work to protect the poor and vulnerable from its effects

For the members of Congress: that God will give them wisdom and insight as they address the budgetary and infrastructure issues before them

For greater awareness: that we may recognize our common humanity and accompany one another along the journey of life

For a clearer recognition of healthy and unhealthy ambitions: that we may be aware of the motivations that stir our hearts and respond to those that lead us closer to God and toward greater wholeness

For the poor and powerless in our society: that we may hear their voices, understand their pain, and humbly walk alongside them through life's challenges

For all who have been impacted by hurricanes, floods, or wildfires: that God will strengthen them, remove the obstacles which they encounter, and guide them to the assistance that they need

For healing and strength: that the Good News of the dying and rising of Jesus may bring hope to the sick and strength to those who care for them

For Refugees and Immigrants: that those who have fled violence and starvation may find safety, new communities of acceptance, and the resources needed for life

For the unemployed and those facing evictions: that God will guide them to beneficial resources, help them to maintain their housing and family life, and open new opportunities for them to use their talent

Into your heart we commend those for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy  
and calling upon you as Jesus taught us, saying...

*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**

Be the Change

Marc Kaplin and Collin Britt

*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](http://www.myfcc.info)*

### **Doxology**

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

### **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.**

# Hymn

## Praise to the Lord the Almighty

CH25

Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, who rules all cre-a-tion.  
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,  
Praise to the Lord, who doth pro-sper thy work, and de-fend thee.  
Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re-store thee,  
Praise to the Lord! O let all of God's peo-ples and race-s,  
7 O my soul wor-ship the well-spring of health and sal-va-tion.  
who, as on wings of an ea-gle up-lift-ed sus-tain-eth.  
Sure-ly God's good-ness and mer-cy here dail-y a-ttend thee.  
fit-ting thee well for hte tasks that are e-ver be-fore thee.  
all that hath life and breath, give thanks for man-i-fold grace-s.  
13 All ye who hear, now to God's tem-ple draw near.  
Hast thou not seen? All that the is need-ful hath been  
Pon-der a new what the Al-might-y can do,  
Then to thy need God as a mo-ther doth speed,  
Let the A-men sound from God's peo-ple a-gain.  
18 Join me in glad ad-or-a-tion.  
grant-ed in what God or-dain-eth?  
who with great love doth be-friend thee.  
spread-ing the wings of grace o'er thee.  
Glad-ly for ev-er sing praise-s!

## Benediction

### CALENDAR

Sunday, September 19 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle  
Monday, September 20 10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center  
Tuesday, September 21 6pm Adult Education Series: Sermon on the Mount on Zoom  
7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook  
Wednesday, September 22 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, September 26 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle  
6:30pm Lamenting Covid Service at the Brooklyn Federated Church