



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

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

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All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + SEPTEMBER 26, 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

Rock of Ages

CH214

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Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in
Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill the Laws de -
Noth - ing in my heart I bring, sim - ply to the cross I
While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eyes shall close in

thee; let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy wound - ed side which
mands; could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er
cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look on to three for
death, when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment

flowed, be of sin the dou - ble cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
flow, all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
grace; foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior, or I die.
throne, Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Remembering Rock and Mountain in the Season of Creation

Take the stone you received at the door into your hands. I invite you to bring to mind a special memory of stone or mountain or wind that stirred that had stirred a spirit or sense of wonder... hiking... visiting the Grand Canyon or Mt Denali... skipping rocks... pebbles that cracked a windshield...

As we hold these stones, 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 enroute 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

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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 124

If God had not been on our side, let Israel now say;

If God had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us,

Then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

Blessed be God, who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the Name of God, the maker of heaven and earth.

Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

Reflection

The Rev. Joseph Blotz

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

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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 welcome the gift of the Spirit and be transformed by the Spirit's work in us so that God's mercy, compassion, and presence may be manifest to our world

For a renewed sense of mission: that we may each use our unique gifts and opportunities to share God's love through words, deeds of healing, hospitality welcome, or cups of water

For all children, particularly those who lack food, homes, or healthcare: that God will guide us in providing for these little ones

For healing and renewal: that the Holy Spirit will bring healing of mind, body, and spirit to all who have experienced abuse, help their voices to be heard, and guide us in supporting them

For strength: that God will renew and give strength to all who are serving others by caring for the sick, fighting wildfires, or distributing relief supplies

For refugees and immigrants: that God will give them courage as they seek lives free of violence and intimidation, and that they may find a welcome in their new communities

For the sick: that God will renew the gift of life within them and restore them to activity and health

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

The Ashokan Farewell

Jay Unger

Laurel Thurman, violin and Cheryl Chase, guitar

*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 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

Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service

CH461

Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man
Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for
As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing
Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we

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need, who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, of-fered mer-cy's per-fect
bread; still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grieved we mourn our
light in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-end
go to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to

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deed: we your ser-vants bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone but
dead. As, O Lord, your deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the
sight, mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pass-ion bids us
show; hope and health, good will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we

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heart, con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-ry gift that you im-part.
soul, use the love your Spir-it ki-ndles still to save and make us whole.
bear, stir-ring us to tire-less striv-ing your a-bun-dant life to share.
give, that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Benediction

Postlude

Star of County Down/Red-Haired Boy
Laurel Thurman, violin and Cheryl Chase, guitar

Traditional Celtic

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 26

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

6:30pm Lamenting COVID Service at the Brooklyn Federated Church

Monday, September 27

10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center

Tuesday, September 28

6pm Adult Education Series: Sermon on the Mount on Zoom

7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook

Wednesday, September 29

1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 30

7pm, Digital Ministry Team on Zoom

Sunday, October 3

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

1pm, Windham COVID Memorial Service, Shaboo Stage

2pm, CROP Walk Putnam Water Walk