



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

All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

**THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 3, 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**

**As We Gather at Your Table**

As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word, help us  
Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - re - ment of life; send us  
Gra - cious Spi - rit, help us sum - mon o - ther guests to share the feast where tri -

5  
know, O God your pre - sence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish  
forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us,  
um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least. There no

9  
us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim ut as - our own teach us  
Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave; may we  
more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy, as we

13  
through this ho - ly ba - nquet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
still be - hold your im - age in the world that you have made.  
join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

**Call to Healing and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from the Letter to the Hebrews: Brothers and sisters: Christ “for a little while” was made “lower than the angels,” that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all

things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them “brothers and sisters.”

When in this past week have we failed to notice God’s grace and God’s glory in our lives?

Who do we find it difficult to call brother or sister?

Let us pray.

**Sovereign God, you make us for each other, to live in loving community as friends, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, wives and husband, partners and companions. Teach us to choose love that is committed and devoted; teach us like little children to wonder and to trust, that our loving may reflect the image of Christ. Amen.**

## Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greatorex

7

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. A small number '7' is written below the first staff. The music is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 8

O God our Sovereign, how exalted is your Name in all the world!

**Out of the mouths of infants and children,  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.**

You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

What are we that you should be mindful of us, mere mortals that you should seek us out?

**You have made us but little lower than the angels;  
you adorn us with glory and honor;**

You give us mastery over the works of your hands;  
you put all things under our feet:

**All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,**

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.  
**O God, our Sovereign, how exalted is your Name in all the world!**

## Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

## 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.

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 a sign of communion between God and humanity and a means of reconciliation amongst all people

For leaders of government: that God will give them wisdom and courage to address the crucial issues of society and to work together to address the common good

For the work of the United Nations: that their conversations will promote peace and cooperation, develop shared understandings of the challenges that exist, and give them the courage to confront the evils that plague the human family

For openness: that we may grow in our awareness of our need for God and others as we face our challenges and grow toward wholeness

For healing of the tension and conflicts in our society: that God will lead us to a new appreciation of each other and help us to give witness to God's plan as we work together

For all children: that they may be warmly welcomed into families and supported as they grow and develop into the persons God calls them to be

For all who are suffering: that God will heal the sick, free those caught in addiction, restore those who have experienced abuse, comfort the grieving, and send relief to those entrapped by poverty

For all healthcare workers: that God will renew their strength and restore their energy that they may continue to care for the sick and be signs of hope for 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/trespases,  
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**

Bread for the World

Bernadette Farrell

*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 below; Praise  
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

## Prayer of Dedication

**God of the beginning, God of now, and God of what will be; as we offer gifts to you this morning, we pray that you will dedicate them so that they might empower your church to bring love, compassion, joy, and mercy to people who are in need. Amen.**

**Fed for the Journey**                      The Great Thanksgiving  
Christ is with us here  
So let us open up our hearts to God and one another  
Giving thanks to the Spirit with joy.

How majestic is your name, O God,  
for the heavens you made  
and the earth you created are full of your glory.

When we hardened our hearts to you  
and tried to separate ourselves from your love,  
you would not leave us abandoned.

In Jesus you took on our flesh and entered into our humanity.  
You showed the way to live into your kingdom,  
where justice and compassion reign.

We remember how,  
on the eve of death and yet living resurrection,  
Jesus gathered with his disciples.  
Taking bread and cup,  
he gave you thanks, shared them, and said,  
“Eat and drink and remember me.”

May your Spirit move among us that,  
 as we share this grape and grain  
 we might become one...  
 across borders, across boundaries...  
 one Body in Christ rising to serve the world you so love.

All this we ask,  
 as we join with all that has life and breath,  
 in proclaiming your holiness, O God...

*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  
 5  
 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**

**Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
 5 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,  
 bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured; Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 9 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Em - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!  
 Je - sus lives a - gain; earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

**Benediction**