



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

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + OCTOBER 10, 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

Immortal Invisible God Only Wise

CH66

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in
Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, nor
To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small; in
Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light, thine
light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most
want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy
all life thou liv - est, the true life of all; we
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all
bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al -
jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove thy
bos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree, and
prais - es we ren - der: O help us to see that
might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise
clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Letter to the Hebrews: Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints

from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

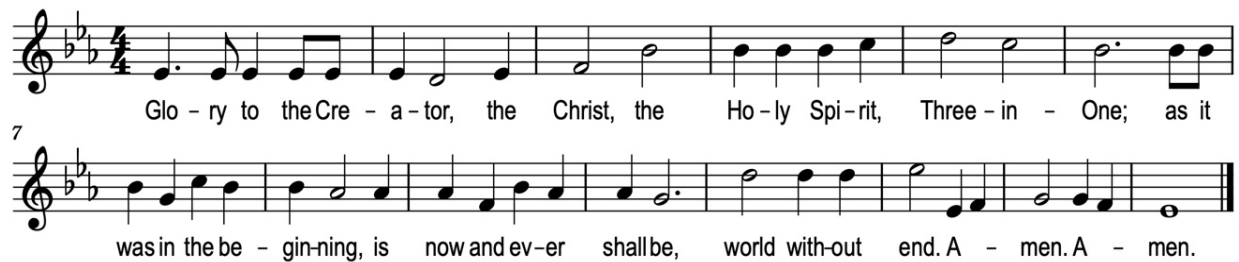
Where have been our places of weakness in this past week?
When have we not trusted in God's mercy and grace?

Let us pray...

God of all who are cast down, you call us to seek good and to meet oppression with justice. Teach us to find salvation in the emptying of ourselves for the sake of those in need, so that goodness may prevail and your kingdom come in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greatorex



Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 90:12-17

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.**

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

**Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands-- O prosper the work of our
hands!**

Gospel

Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age--houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions--and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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 experience God looking upon us with love and respond generously to what God asks of us today

For Wisdom: that we may learn to ponder the events of our lives and hold them in prayer while God works in our lives and transforms us

For the grace to listen: that God will free us from all distractions and disorientation so that we may hear God's voice in prayer, events, and our daily activities

For deeper awareness: that we recognize the limits of power, beauty, fame, and wealth, and learn to trust God who alone fulfills all our needs and wants

For all who have experienced abuse: that God will heal and renew them, help their voices to be heard, and help all in leadership to take effective action to protect the vulnerable and powerless

For children who have been neglected, are malnourished, or abandoned: that God will free them from danger, bring them to a safe and loving environment, and heal their wounds of body, mind, and spirit

For all who are recovering from storms or wildfires: that God will sustain them, speed the assistance that they need, and give strength to all who are helping them

For all who are ill: that God will heal the sick, strengthen those facing a long recovery, and renew all who are caring 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/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

God of every heartbeat: Your work touches every corner of creation; as we bring these gifts before you, give us the eyes to see and the hearts to know that they will reach forth from here to places of need. Amen.

Hymn

Seek Ye First

CH354

Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's righ - teous - ness,
Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and ye shall find,

9 and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
knock and the door shall be o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, October 10	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, October 11	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
Tuesday, October 12	No Sermon on the Mount Series this Week 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook
Wednesday, October 13	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, October 14	5:30pm, Governing Board on Zoom
Sunday, October 17	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle Celebrating Winston's 100 th Birthday