



**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 THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + OCTOBER 24, 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

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

CH5

O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise, the
Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, and bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis
My lov - ing Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim, to
Glo - ry to God and praise and love be ev - er, ev - er given by

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glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
spread to all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

O Jesus, teacher and healer, you heard the cry of Bartimaeus when others would have silenced him. Teach us to be attentive to the voices others ignore, that we might respond through the power of the Spirit to heal the afflicted and to welcome the abandoned for your sake. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greatorex

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it

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was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the water in the desert.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Gospel

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Beisig 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 passionately and continuously call out to Christ for our needs and courageously follow Jesus on the way of life

For greater respect for God's work of creation: that we may be mindful that all the earth is God's gift to us and that it is entrusted to our stewardship

For world leaders: that their gathering on climate change will outline new paths for protecting the earth for future generations

For all whose attention is fixed on the allurements of wealth, power, and prestige: that God will reveal to them their call to discipleship and the opportunities that God presents to use their gifts

For all who are blinded by prejudice: that God will enlighten their hearts and help them recognize the value and dignity of each person

For all who are ill, particularly those with diseases of the eyes: that God will bring healing and renewal to them in body, mind, and spirit

For all who have been bullied or tormented by others: that God will comfort and strengthen them and renew their sense of dignity

For freedom from fear: that God will free us from the fears that hold us from loving, forgiving, and serving so that we may be dynamic disciples

*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

Minuet in D Major

W.A. Mozart

*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 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 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

Amazing Grace

CH546

A - ma - zing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me I
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved How
Through ma - ny dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have a - rea - dy come, 'Tis
10 once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see
pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved
grace hath brought me here thus far, and grace shall bring me home

Benediction

Worship and Building Use Principles Fall and Winter 2021-2022

Our Covid Response Team met last week to discuss Worship and Building Use this fall and winter, particularly as the weather becomes cooler and having the windows open is not possible. Though plans are always subject to change with guidance from the CDC and our local health department, we will continue to gather in person, in the Sanctuary for worship each Sunday.

-Worship will in the Sanctuary, socially distanced, masked, and with a capacity of approximately 50 worshippers. Windows may be closed once it becomes too cold to comfortably keep them open.

-Worship will remain approximately 30 minutes long

-We will continue the practice of masking at all times indoors.

-Those who wish to participate in indoor activities, including worship, must sign our church's Covid Liability Release as well as a record of their attendance.

- Small groups may use Fellowship Hall while masked, socially distanced, and with the use of air purifiers.

-While congregational singing is still not advisable at this time, we welcome the musical leadership of vocal soloists/small ensembles or string instrumentalists in worship.

-Local Health District and CDC guidelines continue to discourage eating and drinking together in settings such as ours so we will not have Coffee Hour or host meals at this time.

-We will continue to monitor local and state data as well as guidance over the coming months, knowing that these principles may need to be adjusted according to changing circumstances.

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, October 24	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, October 25	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
Tuesday, October 26	6pm, Adult Education: Sermon on the Mount on Zoom 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook
Wednesday, October 27	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 31	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle with the Dedication of our Pledges