



**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 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + NOVEMBER 7, 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 World

CH683

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

(Mark 12:38-44)

Hear these words from the Gospel according to Mark: As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers.

They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

When in this past week have we been hypocritical like the Scribes, professing one thing and doing another

When have we been ignorant of the ways our actions further the suffering of the most vulnerable?

Silence

God of widows and strangers, you protect the oppressed and forgotten and feed the hungry with good things. You stand among us in Christ, offering life to all. Give us open hearts and minds to respond with love to the world, caring for those for whom you care. Amen.

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 127

Unless God builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it.

Unless God watches over the city, in vain the sentries keep their vigil.

It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late;

vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for God gives to the beloved sleep.

Children are a heritage from God, and the fruit of the womb is a gift.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

Happy are they who have their quiver full of them;

they shall not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

Hebrew Scripture

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do." She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do." So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Reflection

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 all in this community of faith: that we may generously share the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that God has given us and use them wisely in the service of God and neighbor

For all who exercise authority: that they may use their power in the service of others and surrender any desire to profit from their positions

For all in public service: that the Spirit will help them to serve with honesty, faithfully use their skills to address the pressing issues of the day, and protect them from danger and threats

For those gathered in Glasgow at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change: that our collective actions will begin the long process of repair to the damage we have caused and that God will help us become better stewards of creation.

For healing of the sin of racism: that God will help us recognize all people as our sisters and brothers and work to bring justice to our financial, criminal justice, and educational systems

For refugees, outcasts, and the forgotten of society: that hearts may be opened to their struggles and our communities motivated to work to ease their suffering

For all who are facing starvation: that God will open the hearts of many to assist the people in South Sudan, Yemen, Haiti, and Afghanistan, and break the bureaucratic structures that impede food delivery

For all who are sick, particularly those with chronic illnesses, mental illness, or memory loss: that God's healing love will give them strength, relieve their suffering, and renew their spirits

For all who have died, particularly those who died in service to our nation: that God will bring them into the fullness of life in God's presence

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

How Beautiful

Twila Paris

Cheryl Chase, Erik Haeger, and Laurel Thurman

*Financial offerings may be placed in the plates, 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
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

Prayer of Dedication

God of endless generosity, we bring our offerings to you; grow our hearts in giving and in compassion for those our gifts will touch and bless. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Fed for the Journey

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We have opened them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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!

All are welcome to Jesus' Welcome Table.

We share Communion with gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

Hymn

We Are Not Our Own

CH689

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

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|------------------------|--|
| Sunday, November 7 | 10:15am - Worship and Worship Circle |
| Monday, November 8 | 10am - First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center |
| Tuesday, November 9 | 7pm - Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook |
| Wednesday, November 10 | First Church Hosts Community Supper at First Baptist, Willimantic 11am-1pm - Open Office Hours 1pm - Book Group in Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday, November 11 | 5:30pm, Governing Board on Zoom 7pm, Music Ministry in Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, November 14 | 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle |

Walk for Warmth

Winter is coming, and fuel prices are skyrocketing. Many in our community will be unable to manage their heating costs. You can make a difference as we come together as members of WAIM's faith communities to fundraise for WAIM's energy assistance fund during the annual Walk for Warmth. The fund helps ensure that our neighbors are not left out in the cold. This year's walk begins at Jillson Square in Willimantic at 2:15 on Sunday, November 21st and will be preceded by our interfaith Thanksgiving service at 1:30 pm. You are invited to join walkers as we gather at Jillson Square on the 21st or you may walk at your own time and place as a 'virtual' walker.

Visit <https://waimct.org/events/walk-for-warmth/> for a link to register or to donate to support a walker.

Mansfield Adopt a Family

This year Mansfield Human Services will be providing gift certificates to families rather than specific items. They are requesting that they receive certificates by Nov. 15. As usual we have asked for 2 adults rather than a family with children. Please either put gift certificates in the collection plates or send to our PO Box.

A list of suggested gift certificates follow:

- Amazon
- Walmart
- Barnes and Noble
- Famous footwear
- Applebee's
- Burger King or other fast food
- Kohl's

Thank you for your quick responses to this year's Adopt-a-Family for Mansfield.

Carol Fineout,
Caring Ministry