



**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

All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

THE THIRTIETH-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + NOVEMBER 14, 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

Praise to the Lord The Almighty

CH25

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer 1 Samuel 1:4-20

In this Hebrew Bible reading we hear the story of the birth of the prophet Samuel, on whom the guidance and direction of Israel waits. In distress because of her barrenness, Hannah makes fervent intercession before the Lord, pleading for a male child and promising that should her hope be granted, the child will be set aside for the Lord's service. The priest Eli at first thinks Hannah is drunk, but when he perceives her faithfulness, fulness, prophesies that the Lord will fulfill her petition. Against all expectation Hannah becomes pregnant and delivers Samuel, who will become a nazirite, a prophet and a great judge over Israel.

And so we read, As Hannah continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

When in this past week have we assumed the worst of another?
When have we failed to listen to what another truly needed?

Silence

Let us pray.

Timeless One, you create all moments of our lives, giving each its meaning and purpose. Strengthen us to witness continually to the love of Jesus Christ, that we may hold fast in times of trial, even to the end of the ages. 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
7
was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

Responsorial Canticle

The Song of Hannah

My heart exults in you, O God; my triumph song is lifted in you.

My mouth derides my enemies, for I rejoice in your salvation.

There is none holy like you, nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.

Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance;

Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the weak are clothed in strength.

Those once full now labor for bread, those who hungered now are well fed.

The childless woman has borne sevenfold, while the mother of many is forlorn.

God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up;

gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.

God raises the poor from the dust; and lifts the needy from the ash heap

To make them sit with the rulers and inherit a place of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are God's

on which the whole earth is founded.

Musical Response*Don't Be Afraid*

John Bell

Don't be a-fraid. My love is strong-er, my love is strong-er than your fear.

5 Don't be a-fraid. My love is strong-er and I have pro-mised, pro-mised to be al - ways near.

Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

Musical Response*Don't Be Afraid*

John Bell

Reflection**Call to Prayer***Hear Us O Lord*

Don Besig and Nancy Price

Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

9 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

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 *Lord I Want to Be a Christian* arr. Robert Thygerson
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 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.

Hymn

O Day of Peace

CH711

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

- Sunday, November 14 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
- Monday, November 15 10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
- Tuesday, November 16 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook
- Wednesday, November 17 11am-1pm Open Office Hours
1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
- Thursday, November 18 7pm, Music Ministry in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, November 21 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
2:15pm Walk for Warmth at Jillian Square

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 make a donation to support a walker.

First Church Giving Opportunities

1st Sunday of the Month- Supportive Friends Sunday

- First Church Deacon's fund
- The Community Meal program
- "Love Offerings" honoring our friends and family

2nd Sunday of the Month- Sheltering Sunday

- Holy Family Shelter & the No-Freeze Shelter
- Our First Church Building fund

3rd Sunday of the Month- Sustenance Sunday

Welcoming gifts of food items and funds for:

- The Soup Kitchen
- Our First Church Blessing Box
- Tuna Church for Access Agency

4th Sunday of the Month- School & Service Sunday:

- Items for Church World Service School Kits and Hygiene Kits