



**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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT + DECEMBER 5, 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!*

Prelude

Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

William Gay

Waiting for the Light

O Christ, you are like a candle burning
You are the flame that guides our way.
We await the dawning of your presence
We long to see you face to face.

Musical Response

Candle Burning

Pat Mayberry, adapted

O Christ you are like a can-dle burn-ing. You are the flame that lights the way. You are the
love that shines with - in us, fills our hearts and dawns the day.

Opening Prayer

**God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready
for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart
and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Child, Jesus
Christ, who loves with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CH124

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Responsorial Canticle

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets you promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

To show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

To give God's people knowledge of salvation by forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Epistle

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is

best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Musical Response

Candle Burning

Pat Mayberry, adapted

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Face to Face

Grant, Herms, & Duncan, adapted

Here I am, I'm reach - ing out. I need you al - ways,
Oh, I need you now. I'm com - ing close_ so we can stay
hand in hand un til we're stand - ing face to face.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and accessible, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the call to prayer, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The score ends with a double bar line.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For this community of faith: that our love for others may grow in depth and sincerity and that God's work in us may bring us ever closer to God

For freedom and healing: that God will fill in the valleys and make level the lives of all who struggle with depression, addictions, or pride so that they may experience freedom and wholeness

For all who are suffering: that God may smooth the pathways of those fleeing oppression, guide refugees to places of safety, renew the spirits of those who have experienced abuse, and free those unjustly held

For all who are ill: that God will heal the sick, strengthen their caregivers, and inspire all who are seeking cures for disease

For all who are experiencing a difficult time in life: that God will open opportunities for those who lack work, give comfort to those who are grieving, and guidance to those who have lost direction or purpose

For wisdom: that God will give insight to our President, our courts, the members of Congress as they consider ways to address the needs of society

For peace: that God will inspire us to respect the dignity promote justice for one another in our families, faith communities, and workplaces

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

Panis Angelicus

Cesar Franck

*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

**Accept, O God, this money offered, these gifts given, the goodwill of our hearts, that disappointment may be turned to hope, and worry may be turned to anticipation, as we await with wonder the birth of Christ.
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 God and one another.

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

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co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

All are welcome to Jesus' Welcome Table.

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

Hymn

Come O Long Expected Jesus

CH125

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, December 5	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, December 6	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
Tuesday, December 7	2pm Roberta Smith Committal Service, Plains Cemetery North Franklin, CT 6pm Adult Education on Zoom 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook
Wednesday, December 8	11am-1pm Open Office Hours 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, December 9	5:30 Governing Board 7pm Music Ministry in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 12	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

This Sunday we receive the Deacon's Fund Offering, a collection used by the pastor to support members of the congregation and wider community in times of need.