

**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](http://www.myfcc.info)

## All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT + DECEMBER 19, 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!*

## 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

**Practical Response** **Candle Burning** (at May 2011, adapted)

5 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.

The image shows a musical score for a song titled 'Candle Burning'. The score is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'O Christ you are like a can-dle burn-ing. You are the flame that lights the way. You are the' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics 'love that shines with - in us, fills our hearts and dawns the day.' are written below the second staff. A small number '5' is written to the left of the first staff. The title 'Candle Burning' is written in a larger, bold font above the first staff, and '(at May 2011, adapted)' is written in a smaller font to its right. The section is labeled 'Practical Response' on the far left.

## Opening Prayer

**God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Welcome and Greeting

## Psalter

## Psalm 89

O Shepherd, hear and lead your flock, as lambs we crave your care; what  
God's lin - eage, like a vine, once spread and flour - ished in the land; but  
Up - hold us with your strong hand, Lord, the ones whom you have claimed then  
5  
strength on earth ap - proach - es yours, what mer - cies can com - pare? Re -  
now the vine - yard fails, the fruit lies with - ered in the sand.  
9  
we will ne - ver turn from you and al - ways praise your name.  
store, O God, your fav - or, the ra - diance of your face to  
13  
light - en and re - veal the gift of your re - deem - ing grace.

## Gospel

## Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## Musical Response

*Candle Burning*

Pat Mayberry, adapted

## Reflection

### Call to Prayer

*Face to Face* Grant, Herms, & Duncan, adapted



### Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For the Church: that our hearts may leap for joy as we recognize God-with-us in the people and events of our lives

For all who live in Bethlehem and the hill country of Judah; for Christians, Jews, and Muslims: that God's Spirit will open new pathways of peace and bring forth new hope for all who live in fear

For refugees who have fled violence or oppression: that God will protect them from harm, give them strength to face their challenges, and guide them to places of safety

For anyone experiencing fear, anxiety, or depression: that the birth of Christ may bring light into their lives and freedom to their hearts

For a spirit of joy: that we may be grateful for all the gifts and opportunities that God offers us and rejoice in the blessings which come to us each day

For all children who are at risk, who have run away, who are in institutional settings, or who have been trafficked: that God will guide them to someone whom they can trust and bring them to safety

For all who are traveling during this season: that they may arrive safely and have renewing visits with family and friends

For all who were injured or lost homes or businesses in the recent tornadoes: that God will heal their wounds, keep them safe from further harm, and help them access the resources that they need

For the sick: that God will heal all who are suffering, give them hope, and renew the strength of all who are caring for them

For a spirit of joy: that we may be grateful for all the gifts and opportunities that God offers us and rejoice in the blessings which come to us each day

*Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is most comfortable for you.*

**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**

*Advent Carol of Hope*

Don Besig & Nancy Price

*Offerings may be placed in the passed plates, mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield  
UCC. Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250, or given online at [www.myfcc.info](http://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.**

## Hymn

*Canticle of the Turning*

back page

My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is  
**Though** I am small my - God, my all, you **work great things** in  
 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on  
**Though the** na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us

4  
 great and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you  
 me, and your mer - cy'll last from the depths of the past to the  
 stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - ry  
**fast:** God's mer - cy must de - liver - er us from the

7  
 bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on you ser - vant's plight and my  
**end of the age** to be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 ty - rant from thier throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more for the  
 con - queror's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

11  
 weak - ness you did not spurn so from east to west shall my  
**those who would for you yearn,** you will show you might, put the  
 food they can ne - ver earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise that holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

14  
 name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn? My heart shall sing of the  
**strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn!**  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
**crushed by God who is turn - ing the world a - round!**

18  
 day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

22  
 dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

## Benediction

## **The Week Ahead...**

Monday, December 20    10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center

Tuesday, December 21    6pm Adult Education on Zoom  
7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook

Wednesday, December 22    11am-1pm Open Office Hours  
1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 23    7pm Music Ministry in Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 24        7pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 26    10:15am Worship and Worship Circle