



**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 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS + JANUARY 9, 2022

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

Greeting and Welcome

Opening Hymn

In Water We Grow

CH375

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Acts of the Apostles: Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

When have we failed to accept the word of God?

Who have we failed to pray for as we should?

silence

God, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, mark us with your images, and raise us to live our baptismal vows empowered by the Holy Spirit and the example of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Song of Praise

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines one me, and to the Christ, whose grace has
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out
4 par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.
7 was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, the One who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Psalter

Psalm 29

Ascribe to God, you heavenly beings, ascribe to God glory and strength.

Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name;

worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of God is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
God is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of God is a powerful voice; the voice of God is a voice of
splendor.**

The voice of God breaks the cedar trees; God breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**God makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Mount Hermon like a young
wild ox.**

The voice of God splits the flames of fire; the voice of God shakes the wilderness;
God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Holy One, all are crying, "Glory!"
God sits enthroned above the flood, enthroned for evermore.
God shall give strength to the people;
God shall give the people the blessing of peace.

Gospel

Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Reflection

Thanksgiving for Water and Baptism and the Prayer of Jesus

On this day when we recall the baptism of Jesus,
let us give thanks for the gift of water:
water that washed us in the sacrament of baptism,
water that sustains our lives and the life of all.

Holy God,
before the beginning of time
you separated waters from waters
making Earth and all stars.

To the dry land, you give rainfall and mist.
To the seas, you give deeps and currents.
To the creatures and plants, you give the water of life.
Alleluia! We praise you for the gift of water!

We praise you for the gift of water! Alleluia!

Your Spirit churned over the waters and into the hearts of your people,
rescuing us from floods and legions.
To the thirsty, you give a drink of cold water.
Into the repentant, you pour the cup of salvation.

For the destitute, you offer a pool of healing.
Alleluia! We praise you for the gift of water!

We praise you for the gift of water! Alleluia!

Through the baptism of Jesus,
by his body washed in the waters of the Jordan River,
you baptized the waters of all the Earth.

We bathe in water blessed by Jesus.

We drink the water blessed by Jesus.

The water of your creation sustains us,
Make us grateful for the gifts of healing water,
beautiful water,
flowing water,
nourishing water.

Alleluia! We praise you for the gift of water!

We praise you for the gift of water! Alleluia!

Make us thirsty, O God, for your living water,
and move us to ensure there is water enough for all your people...

clean water,

healthy water,

life-giving water,

in the name of the one who is Living Water,

the One in whom we live and move and have our being

and who taught us to pray, saying...

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

Offerings may be placed in passed 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 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

Living God, your radiance shines in the beauty of creation. May our offerings support the work of this church, lifting up your hope and new life in our community. We dedicate ourselves to serving you through Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen.

Hymn

Wade in the Water

CH371

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, January 9 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

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

Tuesday, January 11 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook

Wednesday, January 12 11am-1pm Open Office Hours
1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 13 5:30pm Governing Board
7pm Music Ministry in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 16 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle