



**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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 23, 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

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

CH245

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

When in this past week have we forgotten that we are all one body?

Who have we forgotten that we belong to one another?

In you, O Lord our God, we find our joy, for through your law and your prophets you formed a people in mercy and freedom, in justice and righteousness. Pour your Spirit on us today, that we who are Christ's body may bear the good news of your ancient promises to all who seek you. Amen.

Song of Praise

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, 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 was in the be-ginning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

8 1. now and ev - er shall be, A - men 2. World with-out men!

Hebrew Scripture

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
- 2 **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- 4 **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**
In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and runs its course with joy and strength.
- 6 **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat. R**
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
**the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;**
- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**
- 9 the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
**the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb. R**

Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Reflection

The Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For the Church: that we may recognize our identity as members of the Body of Christ and manifest the Good News in our lives, our families, and our workplaces.

For the gift of discernment: that leaders and every member of the Christian community will listen for God's invitations and further the mission of Jesus in all the ways which the human family needs healing and enlightenment

For peace and a reduction in international tensions: that God will give all leaders a bigger vision, remove fear from their hearts, and pull back troops in Eastern Europe

For the members of Congress: that the Spirit will move them to greater cooperation, guide them in addressing the greatest issues in people's lives, and inspire them with ways promote the common good

For all who steward earth's resources: that we may recognize all of creation as God's gift to us and grow in awareness of our responsibility to care for the earth

For all who are ill: that the healing mission of Jesus will continue through our care for the sick, and may they experience support and assistance on their journey to healing.

For all who are dying: that they may be reconciled with those who are important to them and peacefully commend themselves to God's healing embrace

For peace and a reduction in international tensions: that God will give all leaders a bigger vision, remove fear from their hearts, and pull back troops in Eastern Europe

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

Erik Haeger

*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 blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; 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

Praise My Soul the God of Heaven

CH23

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

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| Sunday, January 23 | 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle |
| Monday, January 24 | 10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Center for Living |
| Tuesday, January 25 | 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook |
| Wednesday, January 26 | 9:30am Covid Response Team on Zoom
11am-1pm Open Office Hours
1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday, January 27 | 7pm Music Ministry |
| Sunday, January 30 | 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
10:45am Congregational Meeting |

Call to Congregational Meeting

To the Members of the First Church of Christ in Mansfield, (Congregational), United Church of Christ, greetings:

You are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Meeting of the First Church of Christ in Mansfield, Congregational, UCC, will be held on Sunday, January 30th, 2022, immediately following morning worship, both in the Sanctuary and over Zoom video conferencing platform, at which time the following business will be transacted:

Article I: Opening Business: Reading of the Warrant, Determination of a Quorum, Opening Prayer, Presentation of the Minutes of the February 7th, 2021, Congregational Meeting and the October 24th, 2021 Congregational Meeting

Article II: To hear budget reports and to adopt the budget for January 1st, 2022, to December 31st, 2022, or to take any other action in relation to it.

Article III: To transact any other business proper to come before the church. Closing, Vote to Adjourn, and Benediction.

Article IV: Closing, Vote to Adjourn, and Benediction.

This meeting was called by vote of the Governing Board in a meeting on December 9th, 2021.

Artemis Damble, Clerk
Posted: January 13, 2022