



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

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All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + JANUARY 30, 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

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

CH517

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

When in this past week have we failed to love?

Who have we been envious or boastful or arrogant or rude?

O God of all the prophets, you knew us and chose us before you formed us in the womb. Fill us with faith that speaks your word, hope that does not disappoint, and love that bears all things for your sake, until that day when we shall know you fully, even as we are known by 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 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. now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

Then Jesus began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Reflection

The Rev. Joseph Blotz

The Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For the Church: that we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and help others to discover the joy of these virtues

For a greater awareness of our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation: that God will help us understand the interconnectedness of life and work to preserve the health of the air, water, and land that God has created

For all who are recovering from disasters: that God will help the people of Tonga, speed the assistance that they need, and give them strength and courage

For peace: that the Spirit will inspire world leaders to resolve differences through dialogue and reduce tensions in Eastern Europe to avoid violence

For all who will be participating in the Olympic games: that God will guide them safely to their destinations, preserve them from illness, and help them to perform well

For all who are called to be prophets: that God will give them a clear insight into the truth, the strength to endure rejection and suffering, and convincing words to touch hearts about injustice and lack of love

For renewal and deepening of love: that the Spirit of God will help us to love one another as God has loved us

For all who are ill: that God's Spirit will strengthen and restore them, protect the human family from additional waves of the pandemic, inspire all who are researching cures, and strengthen all who are caring for the sick

*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

"Love" from Chime Suite
First Church Music Ministry

Lynn Hollander

*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.

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, January 30 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
10:45am Congregational Meeting

Monday, January 31 10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Center for Living

Tuesday, February 1 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook

Wednesday, February 2 11am-1pm Open Office Hours
1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 3 9:30am Sewing and Service

Sunday, February 6 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

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