



**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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + JULY 24, 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

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude

Centering in the Spirit

Julie Menard

Opening Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Center

CH575

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

For Saint Francis, prayer was always a journey of growing more deeply in relationship with God and neighbor, including his nonhuman neighbors. There is no explicit strategy or instruction manual proposed to achieve this awareness.

And yet, Saint Francis' own narrative of lifelong conversion and his model for how to prioritize the elements of one's life—never extinguish the spirit of prayer and devotion, embrace regular solitude - provide us with a pattern of life, a guide for our own journeys, and a series of points for reflection. The goal of prayer in the Franciscan tradition is, to put it simply, nothing more than for each of us, in our own way and in our own contexts, to become more and more a living prayer.

When in this past week have we not quieted our minds and hearts to hear God's whisper and wisdom? When have we failed to see God in those whom we have encountered?

silence

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

Thank you for the gift of today.

Refresh us. Invite us to discover your presence

In each person that we meet

**And every event that we encounter.
Teach us when to speak and when to listen
When to ponder and when to share.
In moments of challenge and decision
Attune our hearts to the whisperings of your Wisdom.
As we undertake ordinary and unnoticed tasks,
Gift us with simple joy.
When our day goes well, may we rejoice.
When it grows difficult, surprise us with
New possibilities.
When life is overwhelming, call us to
Sabbath moments
To restore your Peace and Harmony.
May our living today reveal your Goodness.**

Hymn

Spirit of the Living God

CH259

Scripture

Romans 12: 1-13

Responsive Reading

We call upon the earth, our planet home, with its beautiful depths and soaring heights, its vitality and abundance of life, and together we ask that it

Teach us and show us the Way.

We call upon the mountains, the high green valleys and meadows filled with wildflowers, the snows that never melt, the summits of intense silence, and we ask that they

Teach us, and show us the Way

We call upon the waters that rim the earth, horizon to horizon, that flow in our rivers and streams, that fall upon our gardens and fields, and we ask that they

Teach us and show us the Way.

We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil, the fertile fields, the abundant gardens, and orchards, and we ask that they

Teach us and show us the Way.

We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in

their roots and the heavens in their branches, the fir and the pine and the cedar, and we ask them to

Teach us and show us the Way.

We call upon the creatures of the fields and forests and the seas, our brothers and sisters the wolves and deer, the eagle and dove, the great whales and the dolphin, who share our home, and we ask them to

Teach us and show us the Way.

We call upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and our friends,

who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives

are built, and with thanksgiving, we call upon them to

Teach us and show us the Way.

And we call upon all that we hold most sacred, the presence and power of the Great Spirit of love and truth which flows through all the Universe, to be with us to

Teach us and show us the Way.

Gospel

Luke 11: 1-10

Reflection

Julie Menard

Call to Prayer

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medeema

9 Lord, li-sten to your chi - ldren pray - ing. Lord, send your Spi-rit in this place.

Lord, lis-ten to your chi - ldren pray - ing. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Our Mother/Father/ Creator, Perfect Love

We turn again to You

Guide us;

help us to love, so that Your Will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day that which we need.

Fill us with hope and trust.

Help us to forgive ourselves,

our brothers and sisters

and to look on them

as you look on us.

Give us strength to resist temptation.

When we are tempted, let us choose peace.

Deliver us from our fears.

For what You love is safe.

And Your love remains

forever and always.

Amen.

Musical Offering

The Prayer

Bobbi Giardina and 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 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

Let us pray.

We offer these gifts for our work in the world. May our hearts and hands be inspired to be living prayers- weaving a tapestry of compassion and action as we love one another, care for our planet, and support all human wholeness. Amen

Hymn

Let There Be Peace on Earth

CH677

Benediction