



**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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022, THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

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

Touch the Earth Lightly

CH 693

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Let us join together in confessing our brokenness before God and one another.

We have often tried to live as if we were the center of all creation. Often, we have pretended that our darkness is a light for others to follow. We have sought wisdom in high places, not among ordinary people or events. We have missed seeing Christ in other people. We have failed to represent Jesus in our encounters with one another.

When, in this past week, have we set our minds on secular things?

When have we forgotten the fruits of the spirit that God has bestowed upon us?

silence

Let us pray.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven by grace! With great joy, we are made alive! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song of Praise

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it
was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 50: 1, 7-15

- ¹ The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- ⁷ “Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.
- ⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
- ⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.
- ¹⁰ For every wild animal of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
- ¹¹ I know all the birds of the air,^[a]
and all that moves in the field is mine.
- ¹² “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and all that is in it is mine.
- ¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
- ¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,^[b]
and pay your vows to the Most High.
- ¹⁵ Call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

Gospel

Luke 1:18-19

⁸⁻¹² It so happened that as Zachariah was carrying out his priestly duties before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment, it came his one turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense. The congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple at the hour of the incense offering. Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the right of the altar of incense. Zachariah was paralyzed in fear.

¹³⁻¹⁵ But the angel reassured him, “Don’t fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John. You’re going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—many will delight in his birth. He’ll achieve great stature with God.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ “He’ll drink neither wine nor beer. He’ll be filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment he leaves his mother’s womb. He will turn many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God. He will herald God’s arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics—he’ll get the people ready for God.”

¹⁸ Zachariah said to the angel, “Do you expect me to believe this? I’m an old man and my wife is an old woman.”

¹⁹⁻²⁰ But the angel said, “I am Gabriel, the sentinel of God, sent especially to bring you this glad news. But because you won’t believe me, you’ll be unable to say a word until the day of your son’s birth. Every word I’ve spoken to you will come true on time—God’s time.”

Reflection

Rev. Patricia Felletter

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

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

offered by 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

Loving God, may these gifts, given gratefully, be brought to life through the power of your creative Spirit. Multiply and use them to bring the word and the touch of Jesus to your people in this place and throughout the world. Amen

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them up to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Musical Response*Santo Santo Santo*

Traditional Argentine

San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

5
 co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!
 heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at Christ's table.

We offer non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free wafers.

Hymn

Give Thanks

CH 528

Benediction**CALENDAR**

Monday, Aug 8	10am First Church leads worship at St. Joseph Living Center
Wednesday, Aug 10	First Church Hosts Community Supper at First Baptist, Willimantic
Thursday, Aug 11	5:30pm Governing Board
Sunday, Aug 14	10:15am Worship & Worship Circle

Read What Pastor Joe is Reading this Month

"Tiny Homes in a Big City" the story of how a mainline faith community invested in building tiny home villages to house people experiencing homelessness and used some of its own underutilized resources.

"God's Beauty: A Call to Justice" roots Christian ethics not in moral imperatives but in the beauty of God which summons us to work for justice, protect human rights, overcome alienation and hostility, and be tenders and creators of beauty.

Year of Sharing

Our community support for the month of August is dedicated to **School Kit supplies for Church World Service**. For each Sunday of the month, envelopes will be available in the weekly worship bulletin and narthex for those in our church family & visitors who wish to contribute.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL KIT SUPPLIES

August is the time when school supplies go on sale. Please consider picking up some of the items needed. These items can be left in the Sewing and Service box located on the bench by the Browns Road entrance.



42 blunt scissors
(rounded tip)



120 70-page spiral
bound notebooks



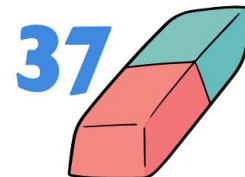
48 boxes of 24 crayons



49 hand-held pencil
sharpeners



48 12-inch rulers that also
have centimeters



37 erasers