



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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022, THE TWENTIETH 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

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

CH 5

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

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

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:

in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.**

**Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:
in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen

silence

Let us pray.

**Beckoning God, as you moved in the lives of your people of old, move in our
lives, inviting us to journey to unknown territory, to listen for your voice, and
to speak your prophetic word in a world that does not want to hear.
empowered by your Spirit, grant us the courage we need to journey, trust,
listen, speak, and accept your commission to be your faithful servant
people. Amen.**

Song of Praise

Gloria Patri

H. Greatorex

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it
7
was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

Hebrew Scripture

Nehemiah 12:27-30, 40-43

In today's reading from Nehemiah, the Jews have returned to Jerusalem after their long exile into Babylon. As an eyewitness, Nehemiah describes the dedication that takes place after the wall around the city has finally been restored.

²⁷ At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. ²⁸ The musicians also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem, for the singers had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem. ³⁰ When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

⁴⁰ The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, ⁴¹ as well as the priests with their trumpets— ⁴² The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah. ⁴³ And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

Psalter

Psalm 98

CH 750

Christian Scripture

Acts 16:25-34

This story concerns Paul and Silas, who had been beaten, arrested and thrown into a Philippian prison for preaching and baptizing. This passage describes the first reference ever to Christian hymn singing. And as you will soon hear -- some very powerful singing it must have been!

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer arose, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Reflection

Laurel Thurman

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

Almighty God, in Christ you taught us to pray and promised that we would receive all that we ask in his name. Hear now our prayer:

We pray for the church worldwide

For the Congregation of First Church, its mission and ministry

For the healing of the earth

For peace and justice in the world

For all nations, and for wisdom for their leaders

For the poor, the oppressed and the incarcerated

For those who are lonely and those who are grieving

For all who need healing in body, mind or spirit

And finally, Lord, we pray for ourselves, that we might continually strive to make Christ's kingdom real and present in our lives and in our world.

We ask these things, with hope in our hearts, as we join our voices together in the words Jesus taught us:

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.

Offering Hymn

My Life Flows On

CH 619

*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

Hymn

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

CH 90

Benediction

May the love, peace, and grace of Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Let us share a sign of that peace!

CALENDAR

Today COVID advisory team meets following worship
Thursday, Aug 18 9:30pm Quilt Group meets in Fellowship Hall all day
Saturday, Aug 20 1:00-5:00pm Fellowship Hall & Kitchen in use for a private event
Sunday, Aug 21 10:15am Worship & Worship Circle

Year of Sharing

Our community support for the month of August is dedicated to School Kit supplies for Church World Service. If you wish to purchase school supplies to help in this effort, this is what we need:

48 Crayons, boxes of 24
42 Blunt tipped scissors
37 Erasers
48 Rulers with both inches and centimeters marked
49 Pencil sharpeners
120 Spiral bound notebooks 70 pages

These items can be left in the Sewing and Service box located on the bench by the Browns Road entrance.

Our Blessing Box is in need of pasta, instant rice and quick rice meals, canned vegetables, individual small boxes of breakfast cereal and oatmeal packets, canned beans, tuna, canned meals such as stews, ramen noodles.

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.

Don Baxter is planning to ride his bike in the **Steeplechase fundraiser on August 20**. If you would like to contribute, you can use this link for Don’s fundraising page: <https://www.pledgereg.com/335953>. Alternatively, you can give him a check made out to Perception Programs or mail the check to him at 5 Storrs Heights Rd, Storrs 06268. Thank you.

Pastoral Care

If you have pastoral needs this summer, contact the church office - phone and email are being monitored.

Phone: (860) 423-9008
Email: FirstChurchMansfield@snet.net