



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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 + THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 *Praise My Soul the God of Heaven* CH23

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Book of Exodus: The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people... And the LORD changed their mind about the disaster that they planned to bring on their people.

When in this past week has our anger burned
hot? When have we been stiff-necked?
When have we refused to change our minds when warranted?

Silence

Merciful God, your desire to bring us into your kingdom is so great that you seek us in the places of our ignorance, and the forgotten corners where we hide in despair. Gather us into your loving embrace, and pour upon us your wise and holy Spirit, so that we may become faithful servants in whom you rejoice with all the company of heaven. Amen.

Song of Praise *Glory Glory! Hallelujah!* African American Spiritual

9
Glo-ry, glo-ry! Ha-le - lu - jah! Sincel laid my bur-dens down.
Glo-ry, glo-ry! Ha-le - lu - jah! Sincel laid my bur-dens down!

Christian Scripture 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Psalter Psalm 51 CH743

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

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/trespases,
 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

Offerings may be placed in passed plates, mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC. PO 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
 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

Prayer of Dedication

May these gifts of our labor to used to bring your healing and hope to the world, O God. Amen.

Hymn

Amazing Grace

CH546

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

- Monday, September 12 10am, First Church Leads Worship at St. Joseph Living Center
7pm, Take Note! in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, September 13 6pm, Special Olympics practice in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, September 14 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
5pm First Church hosts the Community Meal at First Baptist, Willimantic

Thursday, September 15	12:15pm Contemplative Communion
Saturday, September 17	9am-12noon Community Giving Event, Outside the Church
Sunday, September 18	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

Contemplative Communion is Back. We gather each Thursday at 12:15 for a brief contemplative communion service. We will engage in the ancient practice of Lectio Divina (a method of reading, studying, and praying Scripture), share prayers, and be fed at Jesus' Welcome Table... all in about 30 minutes. Take a break midweek, come, and be.

The Caring Ministry will be hosting a **Community Giving Event on Saturday, September 17 from 9 am to noon.** As part of our Year of Sharing we will be collecting personal care items including: toothbrushes and toothpaste, shaving supplies, female hygiene products, deodorant, face cloths, shampoo, toilet paper. Monetary donations can be made to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry.

First Church will be hosting a table making **Pinwheels for Peace at the Celebrate Mansfield** festival Saturday, September 24 from 2-6pm in downtown Storrs. If you would like to help with pinwheels or just be a friendly face of First Church, let Joe know!