



**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 25, 2022 + THE TWENTY-SIXTH 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

God of Grace and God of Glory

CH464

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Prophet Amos: Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore, they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

When have we been at ease with injustice? When have we failed to grieve at another's pain?

silence

Holy God, you reach out in love through Jesus so that we may live as your faithful servants. Unchain us from our desire for wealth and power so that we may, in turn, release others from the prisons of poverty, hunger, and oppression. Amen.

Song of Praise

Glory Glory! Hallelujah!

African American Spiritual



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!

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that^[a] we can take nothing out of it, ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made^[b] the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Psalter

Psalm 146

BEECHER

Bless the Lord, give praise and hon - or un - to God who lends me breath;
 Bless - ed are they whose hope is vest - ed in the God of Is - ra - el;

5
 may my tongue God's great-ness ne - ver cease to tell be - fore my death.
 in the hour of deep - est an - guish, God's pro - vi - sions will not fail;

9
 And in songs of sov - ereign good - ness, let me sing be - yond the grave;
 free - dom for the shack - led spi - rit, strength and stay to those who fall;

God, whose grace my life to ran - som, God, whose will my soul to save.
 bless - ings off - ered with - out mea - sure, right - eous - ness e - nough for all.

Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham.^[a] The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.^[b] ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

Little Suite for Autumn
Offered by Cheryl Chase and Laurel Thurman

Peter Schickele

*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

**Faithful One, you have called us to be stewards of all that you have created;
may we demonstrate our commitment to your work in this world by offering
these gifts for ministry in this place and beyond. Amen**

Hymn

Immortal Invisible God Only Wise

CH66

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

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| Sunday, Sept 25 | 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle |
| Monday, Sept 26 | 10am, First Church Leads Worship at St. Joseph Living Center
7pm, Take Note! In Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday, Sept 27 | 6pm, Special Olympics in Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday, Sept 28 | 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday, Sept 29 | 12:15pm Contemplative Communion in the Yellow Office
7pm Choir Practice in Fellowship Hall |

Sunday, October 2

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.