



**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

OCTOBER 16, 2022 + THE TWENTY-NINTH 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**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

CH570

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy: In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.

When in this past week have we had itching ears, only listening for perspectives that matched our own?

When have we failed to listen for truth?

silence

Holy One, we lift our eyes to you in hope and awe. Grant that we may reject all apathy of spirit, all impatience and anxiety, so that, with the persistence of the widow, we may lift our voice again and again to seek your justice. Amen.

* Please rise in body or in spirit as you are willing and able.

Song of Praise

Glory Glory! Hallelujah!

African American Spiritual

9

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

Glo-ry, glo-ry! Ha-le - lu - jah! Since I laid my bur-dens down!

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and the second staff is in 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a '9' below the first measure. The second staff has a '9' below the first measure. The lyrics are: 'Glo-ry, glo-ry! Ha-le - lu-jah! Since I laid my bur-dens down.' and 'Glo-ry, glo-ry! Ha-le - lu - jah! Since I laid my bur-dens down!'.

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 32:22-31

This story from Hebrew scripture tells how Jacob, on the night before his confrontation with his brother Esau, wrestles all night with a figure he comes to recognize as God. Many years earlier Jacob had tricked Esau and stolen his blessing and birthright. Now Jacob has grown rich in the service of his father-in-law Laban, but he greatly fears his meeting with his brother. Jacob's struggle with God may in part express his guilty conscience and coming to terms with the harm he had done. He has to fight for a blessing and permission to return to his homeland. For his new life he is given a new name, Israel, but is left with an injury as a sign of God's supremacy and a reminder of his wrong.

The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Psalter

Psalms 121

O WALY WALY

I lift my eyes un - to the hills; from where shall come
 Each day God is a strength and shield; a - gainst the on -
 The pro - mise of the Lord is sure: to hold me in

my help at last? What-e're the need, God will pro - vide,
 - slaughter on my foes; and to the da - ngers of the night,
 un - yield - ing care; throughout my life, may faith con - firm

the Lord by whom the world was cast.
 the eyes of God are ne - ver closed.
 that where I am, the Lord is there.

Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For all people of faith, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share good news with all. Grant your people persistence in proclamation and prayer.

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation.

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system.

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken.

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others.

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace, that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying...

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

Bright Hope for Tomorrow

arr. Pascuale Calabrese

offered by Jimmy Buccini

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 blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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

We are grateful, O God, for this community; that we can participate fully in this place and share of what we have. We bring before you again our tithes and offerings, our time and talents. Bless these gifts and this community that, empowered by your Living Spirit, we might continue the work of the gospel as modeled for us in the early church.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Book of Acts describes the ideal Christian community, modeling the actions that should shape the Realm of God here on earth. In worship, each of our rituals and practices remind us of how God wants the world to be, one of those is communion. A table open and large enough for everyone, where a simple meal is enough to feed everyone who accepts the invitation. In some congregations we pass the trays to practice both being serving and serving others. No seat any better than another. Where we give all so that all may have enough to be fed in body and in soul.

Stewardship is an opportunity to practice our faith in action, to share our possessions, our time, and our talents equally so that we can distribute the proceeds to all, as any have need. We know how much the world needs this, we may know some or many in our own congregation who need us to share. Sometimes that sharing looks like giving our money to make sure someone has a meal, or a youth can participate fully in a program. It also might look like a visit to someone who is sick or lonely at home, a card sent to check in with someone you miss seeing on Sunday. It might be using your talents to teach a class, help out in the office, or lead a new ministry. There are needs both inside and outside the church and we have ways to help. As we gather at table this morning, let us consider how our gifts can meet a need.

We praise you, loving God, for creating all things,
for making us in your image,
and for seeking us when we turn from you.

We thank you for coming to us in Jesus Christ,
who was faithful even to death on the cross and who lives among us still.
We share this meal in remembrance of him,
offering you our lives in praise and thanksgiving.

Fill us with your Spirit,
to make us one in Christ,
and one in love for you and for all people,
as in word and deed we seek your reign of peace and justice on earth.

All glory be to you, O God, as we join with all you have created in praising your holy name....

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

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!

We remember how, on the eve of death
and yet living resurrection,
Jesus gathered with those he loved.
He took bread and cup,
blessed you, and gave it, saying,
Eat, for this is my body.
Drink, for this is my blood poured out for you.
Do this and remember me.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at Christ's table; we offer non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread.

***Hymn**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

CH592

***Benediction**

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, October 16	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, October 17	10am, First Church Leads Worship at St. Joseph Living Center 7pm, Take Note! In Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, October 18	6pm, Special Olympics in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 19	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, October 20	9am Quilting Group in Fellowship Hall 12:15pm Contemplative Communion in the Yellow Office 7pm Choir Practice
Sunday, October 23	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle