



**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

**OCTOBER 23, 2022 + THE THIRTIETH 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**

*Gather Us In*

CH284

**Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from the Book of the Prophet Joel: You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

When have we not listened to the prophecies of the young or the dreams of the old?

When have we been ignorant of the Spirit's presence?

*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.**

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\* 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!

**Christian Scripture**

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Psalter**

Psalm 65

ST DENIO

The praises of Zion, O God, are your due;  
 Your mercies are countless, our mercies are few;  
 The weight of transgressions your grace will remove,  
 And give life we cherish, redeemed by your love.

Your strength has established the sea and the plain;  
 Each day all creation your praise sings again;  
 The God of salvation, our hope for always,  
 A shelter in darkness, the light of our days.

The earth's endless bounty, Lord, let us preserve;  
 Its richness and splendor we less than deserve;  
 The cycle of seasons gives sense to the year,  
 An autumn for harvest, a spring time of cheer!

**Gospel**

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to

his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

## Reflection

### 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

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

God of mercy, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Inspire your church to serve and love all people with the unceasing grace you extend to us.

God of all creation, you formed a world where even the sparrow finds a home. Preserve the beauty and diversity of all creatures with whom we share the earth. Lead us to protect all living things.

God of peace, you are an ever-present help in time of trouble. Rescue families and nations torn apart by violence and warfare (especially). Unite all people toward common goals of reconciliation and peace for every person.

God of hope, you stand with the suffering and give strength. Comfort your people filled with fear or anger, anxiety or shame. Bring healing to all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit (especially).

God of restoration, you call us to trust in you and not ourselves alone. Make this congregation a community of humility and repentance, ready to encounter you in love and follow in your ways.

God of eternal life, to you be the glory forever. We give you thanks for (James of Jerusalem and) all who have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and now live with you.

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/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**

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](http://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!

**\*Dedication of our Pledges**

**Accept, O God, the tokens of our love and signs of pledge and commitment which we bring forward today. By your word of blessing and grace, may they blossom forth as leaves on a tree, as flowers in our hearts, as blessings in your kingdom, as joy at your table. Amen.**

**The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

**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 bread.*

**\*Hymn**

*Standing in the Need of Prayer*

CH579

**\*Benediction**