



**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 30, 2022 + ALL SAINTS AND REFORMATION SUNDAY

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**

For All the Saints

CH637

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Prophet Isaiah: Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation-- I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

When have we not worshiped God by serving those in need?
When have we failed to do good?

silence

**Holy God, all our worship is met by the cleansing gaze of your passion for justice.
Enfold us in your grace that we may embody our devotion in acts of justice and in
defense of the helpless, to the glory of your name. 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! Sincel laid my bur-dens down.
 Glo-ry, glo-ry! Ha-le - lu - jah! Sincel laid my bur-dens down!

Christian Scripture

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalter

Psalms 32

AUERLIA

6
 How blest those whose trans-gress-ions the Lord for-gives through grace; who,
 The Lord with ab-so-lu-tion will greet the pen-it-ent, and
 In-till in me your wis-dom, in-struct me in your ways; grant
 as the heirs of mer-cy, find peace be-fore God's face. the
 send the dawn of mer-cy be-fore the night is spent. the
 but a word of par-don and I re-spond with praise. God's God's
 10
 heart with guilt so hea-vy it bends to bear the strain can
 to the meek and low-ly a hid-ing place shall be; in
 stead-fast love sur-rounds me, and doubts shall soon de-part; re-

yield God its aff - lic - tion and claim its strength a - gain.
dan - ger, their sal - va - tion; from sin their li - ber - ty.
deemed, my soul re - joi - ces, and glad - ness fills my heart.

Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Reflection

The Rev. Joseph Blotz

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

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

Holy One, your church rests on the faithful who came before us. Give its leaders the will to carry the church forward and discern your will for the future.

Holy One, the earth is yours and all that dwells within it. Care for places ravaged by natural disasters (especially). Quell raging fires and halt destruction caused by flooding.

Holy One, you raise up leaders to guide your people. Kindle in them a passion to care for others, a desire to seek the common good, and the courage to love their enemies.

Holy One, you bless those who are poor, hungry, and reviled. Provide food, housing, and security to all who are vulnerable or in crisis. May those who have more than enough give generously.

Holy One, hold us in community with one another. Nurture a spirit of abundant hospitality and intentional inclusion among us, welcoming the gifts of all. Inspire creative visions for our life together.

Holy One, we remember in thanksgiving all those who have died. (Here the names of those who have died in the previous year may be read.) Wipe away our tears and comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in 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/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

Pie Jesu (from "Requiem")

Andrew Lloyd Webber, arr. John Leavitt

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**

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. We ask that you would accept not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

***Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CH65

***Benediction**

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, October 30	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, October 31	10am First Church Leads Worship at St. Joseph Living Center 7pm Take Note! In Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, November 1	10:30am First Church Leads Worship at MCNR 6pm Special Olympics in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, November 2	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, November 3	9:30am-12noon Sewing and Service 12:15pm Contemplative Communion in the Yellow Office 7pm Choir Practice
Saturday, November 5	10am-1pm Covid Vaccine Clinic in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 6	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle