



**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

NOVEMBER 13, 2022 + THE THIRTY-THIRD 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**

For the Healing of the Nations

CH668

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians: Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

When have we become weary of doing what is right?

silence

O God, in Christ you give us hope for a new heaven and a new earth. Grant us wisdom to interpret the signs of our times, courage to stand in the time of trial, and faith to witness to your truth and love. Amen.

Song of Praise

Glory Glory! Hallelujah!

African American Spiritual

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

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

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Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Canticle

First Song of Isaiah

Jack Nobel White

Refrain

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in God and not be a - fraid. For the

5 Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and God will be my Sav-ior

9 Verses

There - fore you shall draw wa - ter with re - joi - cing
Cry a - loud in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on;

12 from the springs of sal - va - tion and on that day you shall say, "Give the
ring out your joy for the great one in the

15 thanks to the Lord and call up - on God's name."
midst of the you is the Ho - ly One of Israel.

Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Reflection

Welcoming New Members in the Life and Covenant of the Congregation

We invite forward those wishing to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith:

Beloved of God, these Christians have found a home in this family of faith. Through worship, prayer and study, they have been led by the Spirit into covenant with us. Now hear what Scripture says: "You are no longer strangers, but citizens with all the saints. You are members of God's household, built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus for the cornerstone. On him the whole structure rests."

Introducing Our New Members and Hearing Their Promises

Dear friends in Christ, in the presence of God, I ask you – do you wish to renew your promised made in baptism to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

I promise, with the help of God.

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home along the way, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Do you promise to grow with this congregation in faith, and further with us Christ's mission in the world through the gifts of your time, talents and treasure?

I promise, with the help of God.

Friends, let us join together with ... in proclaiming the First Church Covenant, renewing our commitments to God and one another by saying:

We covenant with each other and with God to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and to strive to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known, or to be made known to us; to study and to teach the faith of the church; to take part in the business of the church; to support the work of the church here and throughout the world with our labor and our gifts according to our means. We recognize this church as one congregation of the whole Christian Church, and acknowledge that the covenant which binds us together as a local church also unites us in worship and work with all Christians everywhere.

*Welcome and Congregational Promises (turning to the congregation)

Friends, let us welcome these new members and affirm the ministry we share in Jesus Christ as we pray.

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for these fellow disciples who have chosen to join in covenant with us. By the power of your Spirit may we strive together for peace and justice among all people, working to protect and restore the integrity of your creation, as we bring healing and hope to those most vulnerable.

*Blessing:

Take your rightful place with the ministers and saints of this congregation, with the blessings and assurance of our love and the presence of the Spirit to sustain you all the days we are privileged to journey together toward the Kingdom that is come on earth. Be at peace in this place, now and forever more.

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. A small number '9' is positioned to the left of the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and lyrics.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Reviving God, keep your church active in its mission and ministry. Encourage all people of faith to risk boldly in their proclamation and fill them with wisdom and endurance for challenging times.

Renewing God, as the northern hemisphere prepares for winter, make us mindful of the ordered beauty of your creation. Teach us to treasure cycles of rest and new life. Help us care for what you have made.

Loving God, accompany all who make sacrifices for the sake of others. Safeguard first responders. Grant peace to veterans and those harmed by war and violence; heal any wounds in body, mind, or spirit.

Healing God, your people cry out to you. Sustain doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel in their tireless work. Uphold mental health professionals and those in their care. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick (*especially*).

Uniting God, unite this assembly in its shared mission and ministry for the sake of the gospel (*specific ministries or initiatives may be named*). Highlight ways we can better work together and give us patience to work through disagreement.

Consoling God, abide with all who grieve for loved ones who have died (*especially*). Comfort us with the promise of resurrection and new life 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/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

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 these gifts offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Amen.

*Hymn

Down By the Riverside

CH673

*Benediction