



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield  
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

860.423.9008 + [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info)

All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT + DECEMBER 4, 2022**

**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!*

**Centering in the Spirit**

**Prelude**

**Welcoming the Light**

Today we light the candle of peace, because we so desperately need God's peace in the midst of all we fear.

**May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Amen.**

**Musical Response**

*Holy is Your Name*

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er - a-tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your  
mer-cy to the peo - ple you have cho-sen and ho - ly is your name!

**Welcome and Greeting**

**Hymn**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

CH124

## Prayer of Confession

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, amen.

## Musical Response

*Holy is Your Name*

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

## Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## Psalter

Psalm 72

EIN FESTE BURG



1. Grant jus - tice, Lord , to those who rule; let right - eous - ness com - pel their hand;  
2. As long as sun and stars of space walk their di - vine - a - ppoi - nted round;  
3. God's right - eous - ness ex - tends to all who seek a - ssur - ance in dis - tress;



6 their courts shall bear pros - per - i - ty, and serve the poor through - out the land.  
long as en - dures our fee ble race, the bless - ings of the Lord - a - bound.  
the weak who in their an - guish bend when hate and vi - o - lence o - ppress.



10 O Lord, our cause de - fend; de - liv' - rance quick - ly send to those who, bound in chains  
Like rains that feed the field, our Lord to us will yield the boun - ty and the peace  
As gold - en sheaves of grain, God's har - vest we re - main; All praise to God a - bove!



16 of greed and sel - fish gains, sub - mit them - selves to your com - mand.  
which God will ne - ver cease to sho - wer where true faith - is found.  
Who crowns our life with love, O bless God's name for - e - ver.

## Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Reflection

### Call to Prayer

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

CH127

Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo-ple's e - ver - last - ing light,  
O Christ, re-deem-er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

## 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

*Amid the Cold of Winter*

Bret Rhoades

*Offerings may be placed in the collection boxes at the entrances to our worship space, 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 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

**Accept, O God, this money offered, these gifts given, the goodwill of our hearts, that disappointment may be turned to hope, and worry may be turned to anticipation, as we await with wonder the birth of Christ. Amen.**

## Fed for the Journey                      The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Open up your hearts.

**We have opened them up to God and one another.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Musical Response

### *Santo Santo Santo*

### Traditional

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!

*All are welcome to Jesus' Welcome Table.*

*We share Communion with gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.*

## Hymn

*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

CH138

## Benediction