



**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

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST + DECEMBER 24, 2021

All ages will be worshipping together throughout the entire service tonight.

We at First Church believe the noises and wiggles of children are signs of the Spirit's movement among us and of a church alive with God's presence. If, however, your child wishes to be somewhere other than in the Worship Service, there are rocking chairs in the entrance space at the back of the church where you may rock and play. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Welcome

Prelude

In Heavenly Peace
Bobbi Giardina

Franz Gruber, arr. Kevin Olson

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy God, we come before you this night to proclaim a steadfast love, an undying care, a risk-taking grace. As shepherds watch their fields, you guard justice, you protect peace, you keep your eyes on your beloved. May our worship be as such: a holy watching, a patient waiting, a faithful presence. Amen.

*Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

CH148

Invitation to Healing and Grace

Hear these words from the Letter to Titus: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

When have we failed to recognize the grace of God appearing in our midst?
When have we failed to be self-controlled, upright, and godly?
When have we failed to be zealous for good deeds?

Silence

Hear the good news: God has entered into our humanness,
bringing salvation to all, redeeming us all...

**We are forgiven. We are healed. We are made whole.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise	<i>Hark the Herald Angels Sing</i>	CH150
Hebrew Scripture	Isaiah 9:2-7	
Psalter	Psalm 98: <i>Joy to the World</i>	CH143
Gospel for All Ages	Luke 2:1-14	
Hymn	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	CH147

The Prayers of the People and The Prayer of Jesus

As we pray the Prayer of Jesus, you are invited to use whatever language is most meaningful to you.

The following is offered as a suggestion:

**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, for ever. Amen.**

Offering Hymn *What Child is This* **CH162**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God of every good and perfect gift, in this season when so many gifts are given and
received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to
your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open 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 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
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co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!
heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly Lord!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Communion Reflection

Mary's Lament

Brendan Graham

Cheryl Chase, Erik Haeger, Laurel Thurman

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Light for the World**

Silent Night

CH145

***Benediction**

*** Sharing Christ's Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Peace may be shared with handshake, embrace, or a non-contact gesture.

Please respect the wishes of those with whom you exchange a greeting.

***Postlude**