



**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

All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

THE FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST + DECEMBER 25, 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!

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* CH149

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Letter to the Hebrews: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When in this past week have we failed to listen for God's voice?

Silence

O God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world. Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation, proclaiming your promise of peace to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Hymn *The First Noel* CH151

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalter Psalm 98: *Joy to the World* CH143

Gospel John 1:1-14

Hymn *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* CH153

Story

Refuge

Anne Booth
Sam Usher, illustrator

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,
3
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/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.

Offering Hymn

A Gaelic Carol

Howard Drescher

*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*

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

**With these gifts of time and treasure, we bring ourselves, O God, in response to the
greatest gift of all— the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.**

Hymn

Carol at the Manger

Marty Haugen

Ho-ly child with - in the man - ger, long a - go yet ev - er near; come as
 One a - gain we tell the sto - ry: how your love for us was shown, when the
 5 Ho-ly child with - in the man - ger, lead us ev - ver in your way, so we
 friend to ev - 'ry stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear. As you
 im - age of your glo - ry wore an im - age like our own. Come, en -
 see in ev - 'ry stran - ger how you come to us to - day. In our
 9 lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the out - cast, free the bound, as you
 light - en with your wis - dom, come and fill us with your grace, may the
 lives and in our liv - ing give us strength to live as you, that our
 13 taught us love un - spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
 fire of your com - pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
 hearts might be for - giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

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
 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

CH164

Blessing of the Toys and Benediction

Thank you to Jimmy Buccini for leading us in musical praise today while Erik is away!

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, December 25	10:15am Worship
Monday, December 26	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
Wednesday, December 28	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, December 29	12:15 Contemplative Communion
Sunday, January 1	10:15am Worship