



**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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + JANUARY 29, 2023

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

Tu Has Venido a la Orilla/Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore

CH342

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

When in this past week have we been disagreeable? When have we failed to be united?

Silence

Let us pray.

Holy God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence; bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every shadow, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. Amen.

Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:1-4

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Psalter

Psalm 27

CH736

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the Good News according to the community of Matthew. Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Reflection

The Reverend 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

*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

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

CH606

*Offerings may be placed in the collection 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

God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to follow you into the future. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

We Call Ourselves Disciples

CH357

Benediction