



**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

**THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + AUGUST 20, 2023**

**Chimes and Prelude**

**Welcome and Greeting**

**Centering in the Spirit**

**Word**

I, who live by words, am wordless when I try my words in prayer.

All language turns

To silence.

Prayer will take my words and then

Reveal their emptiness.

The stilled voice learns

To hold its peace,

to listen with the heart

To silence

that is joy, is adoration.

The self is shattered, all words torn apart

In this strange patterned time of contemplation

That, in time, breaks time, breaks words, breaks me,

And then, in silence, leaves me healed and mended.

I leave, returned to language, for I see

Through words, even when all words are ended.

I, who live by words, am wordless when I turn me to the Word to pray. Amen.

**Hymn**

*Gather Us In*

CH284

**Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from the Gospel according to Matthew: Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

When in this past week have needed to change our minds?

*Silence*

**Holy One of Israel, you restore what is lost, heal what is wounded, and gather in those who have been rejected. Give us the faith to speak out as did the**

**Canaanite woman, that the outcast may be welcomed and all people may be blessed. Amen.**

**Song of Praise**

*Gloria*

Christopher Grundy

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, and the Christ, and the Spir - it so near, as it  
9  
was from the start so it shall be for - ev - er one God, al - ways here.

**Christian Scripture**

Romans 6:1-11

So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive to sin's demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

**Psalter**

Psalm 133

CH764 Response 1

**Hebrew Scripture**

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near

me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty. And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

## Reflection

### Hymn

### *As I Went Down in the River to Pray*

### Traditional Spiritual

\* 2. brothers, 3. fathers, 4. mothers, 5. sinners

## Celebrating God's Presence in the Baptism of Llancel Omar Rodriguez Octaviani

Beloved ones, let us celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed, and commissioned: we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God; we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ and one another in Christian community; we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice,

and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

Llancel, do you wish to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus?

*I do.*

Do you believe that God created you in love, that God loves you and all people?

*I do.*

Will you follow Jesus in turning away from evil and oppression and in seeking justice and love?

*I will*

Will you use the gifts the Spirit has given to you to love and serve others?

*I will*

**Jim and Joe, will you share your faith with Llancel, growing with him in faith, hope, and love?**

*I will, God being my helper.*

**Julie and Steve, recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support Llancel and his parents as they grow in faith?**

*I will, God being my helper.*

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Llancel as he lives and grows in Christ?

**We do, by the grace of God.**

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We thank you, God,  
for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the  
world had shape and form,  
your Spirit moved over the waters.

Out of the waters of the deep,  
you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the  
time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark  
of salvation bore a new beginning.  
In the time of Moses, your people Israel  
passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and  
crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who  
was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan,  
became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well,  
washed the feet of the disciples,  
and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit. Bless by  
your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water.

Create new life in Lancel baptized this day that  
he may rise in Christ.  
Glory to you, eternal God,  
the one who was, and is, and shall always be, even to  
the end of the age. Amen.

*As Lancel is immersed in water:*

**Lancel, you are baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, Mother of us all. Amen.**

*As hands are extended to Lancel in blessing:*

**Lancel, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, for you are a child of God, a disciple of Jesus,  
a member of the Church. Amen.**

**Into the family of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving. We are members of  
the Body of Christ. We are inheritors of God's promise. We are the people the Spirit  
sends to serve. In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

### Musical Offering

*I Send You Out*

John Agnotti

*Financial 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](http://www.myfcc.info)*

### Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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

**Holy Spirit keep us attuned to the voices around us, to those who need us to  
be bearers of your love and compassion; may these gifts we have given help  
us, through your church, meet those needs. Amen.**

### Hymn

*One Bread One Body*

CH393

### 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!

### 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.**

### Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Hymn

*Ours the Journey*

CH458

### Benediction and Postlude

#### The Week Ahead...

Sunday, August 20	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle 5pm PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland in Fellowship Hall
Monday, August 21	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
Tuesday, August 22	7pm Mansfield Historical Society Concert in the Sanctuary
Wednesday, August 23	5:30pm Governing Board and Ministry Teams in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, August 24	9:30am Quilting Group in Fellowship Hall 12:15pm Contemplative Communion in Yellow Office 4pm Summer Musical Theater Workshop
Friday, August 25	4pm Summer Musical Theater Workshop
Sunday, August 27	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle 3pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall

**Back to School is just around the corner and that means great deals on school supplies for our Church World Service School Kits!** This year we need:

27 boxes of crayons (24 crayons per box) 35

blunt end (rounded)scissors

31 erasers

12 12" rulers with centimeter markings

31 pencil sharpeners

252 pencils (unsharpened if possible) 81

70-page spiral bound notebooks

Please place purchased items in the basket in front of our Welcome Table!