



**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 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME+ REFORMATION SUNDAY + OCTOBER 29, 2023

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Centering in the Spirit

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

CH65

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Gospel according to Matthew: When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

In this past week have we not love God with all our being?

When have we not loved our neighbor as ourselves?

When have we not loved ourselves?

Silence

Almighty God, your Child Jesus has shown us how to love one another. By the power of your Spirit, may our love for you overflow into joyous service and be a healing witness to our neighbors. 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

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

In this reading Paul recalls his first visit to the Thessalonians, the troubles he endured, and the straightforward and gentle way in which he presented the gospel. The opposition that Paul had earlier experienced in Philippi continued in Thessalonica, but, with God's help, Paul preached fearlessly. Unlike certain of the insincere traveling missionaries of the pagan world, Paul acted with integrity and sought in no way to take advantage of his new friends. He and his companions shared not only the gospel but their own selves.

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.

³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Psalter

Psalm 90: O God Our Help

CH67

Hebrew Scripture

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

¹Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land

of Moab, at the LORD's command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

CH305

9 Lord, li-sten to your chi - ldren pray - ing. Lord, send your Spi-rit in this place.

Lord, lis-ten to your chi - ldren pray - ing. Sendus love, sendus power, sendus grace.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

In your love, you speak to your church. Give courage and the bond of love to all who gather in your name, that this love turn toward our neighbors.

In your love, you create our earth filled with living things of every kind. Sustain the intricate connections among plants, insects, animals, and organisms we don't even know or recognize. Bless the work of scientists who help us extend neighbor love to the natural world.

In your love, you guide with justice. Inspire leaders for truthful conversations and wise policies, that decisions are made for the good of all.

In your love, you tenderly care for your children and nurse them to health. Bring relief to all those who need healing, hope, or restoration this day

In your love, you accompany us in life's transitions. We pray for new parents, those grieving a loss, those who are retiring, and those embarking on new ventures.

In your love, we remember those who were dear to us and now rest in you. We give thanks for Martin Luther and all who seek to reform and renew your church. Give us courage to live out your gospel, revealing your love until our days on earth have ended.

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.**

Musical Offering

In the Bulb

CH638

*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*

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 love and justice, who calls us again and again to be fair and to be merciful, bless these gifts to your just and loving work, that we might have the courage to speak up for the vulnerable, to stand against every death-dealing power, and support all those who dream and work for justice. Thank you for the joy of participating in your justice, your love, your abundant life, your dreams for the world. In the generous, beautiful name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Benediction and Postlude

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, October 29

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle and Collection of Pledges

Monday, October 30

7pm Take Note Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 1

1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, November 2

9:30 am Sewing and Service

10am First Church leads Worship at St. Joseph Living Center

12:15pm Contemplative Communion in Yellow Office

Saturday, November 4

11am Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Rev. Pat Felletter

Sunday, November 5

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle