



**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

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**THE THIRTIETH-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY + NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Centering in the Spirit

Hymn

For All the Saints

CH637

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the First Nations Version¹ of the Gospel according to Matthew: “The Separated Ones and the scroll keepers are leading you down the wrong path!” Creator-Sets-Free said to the people and his followers. “When they speak, they represent the lawgiver Drawn-from-the-Water, so listen when they speak the truth and do what they say but do not walk in their ways. They fail to do the things they demand of others and tie heavy spiritual burdens on their backs, too much for them to carry, but will not lift even one finger to help them.”

When in this past week have we felt heavy burdened?

What has felt hard to bear?

When have we been the cause of that burden to another?

¹ Many First Nations tribes communicate with the cultural and linguistic thought patterns found in their original tongues. The First Nations Version (FNV) recounts the Creator’s Story—the Christian Scriptures—following the tradition of Native storytellers’ oral cultures. This way of speaking, with its simple yet profound beauty and rich cultural idioms, still resonates in the hearts of First Nations people. The FNV is a dynamic equivalence translation that captures the simplicity, clarity, and beauty of Native storytellers in English, while remaining faithful to the original language of the New Testament.

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 2:9-13

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Psalter

Psalm 107: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

CH631

Hebrew Scripture

Joshua 3:7-17

The LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God." Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap." When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the

priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

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.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

We remember the great ancestors of our faith,
from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:

Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

We remember the prophets and priests,
the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles,
those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

Family of our faith, we remember you.

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren,
brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents
whose lives ended too soon:

Those close in our heart, we remember you.

We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have lost from our lives,
knowing that they are with Your heart forever.

You are invited forward to name one of the beloved dead and light a candle

We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray in the words he gave us:

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/trespases
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

*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 all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Holy One, Creator of heaven and earth.

You are the God of Abraham and Sarah,
God of Miriam and Moses,
God of Joshua and Deborah,
God of Ruth and Naomi,
God of Jonathon and David
God of the poets and the prophets,
God of Mary and Joseph,
God of the apostles and the martyrs,
God of our mothers and our fathers,
God of our children to all generations.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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!

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus the Christ,
in whom your fullness dwells.
In his life you taught us how to live.
In his death we bear witness to the destruction of violence and death.
In his resurrection we claim the power of love and hope.

We remember how the Lord Jesus,
on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread;
and when he had given thanks
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying
'Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you;
do this remembering me.'
And after the supper he took the cup, saying,
'This cup is the new covenant in my life.
Do this, as often as you drink it, remembering me.'

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of grape and grain
and upon us your holy people
that we may be fed to carry out your work of justice and compassion.

Renew our communion with all your saints throughout the ages,
especially Pat, Alicia, Winston,
and those whose names we call out before you now
—

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
strengthen us as we labor together in building your holy city, the New Jerusalem,
a community where all are fed,
where all are valued,
and where all are loved.
Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Hymn

Faith of our Fathers

CH635

Benediction and Postlude