



# 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 NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME + JUNE 2, 2024

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

*Morning Has Broken*

CH53

### Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from Paul's Second Letter to the Church in Corinth: For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

When in this past week have we felt crushed or persecuted, forsaken or destroyed?  
When have we caused someone to feel crushed or persecuted, forsaken or destroyed?

*Silence*

**Lord of the Sabbath, lawgiver and outlaw, you lift the burdens from our shoulders.  
You entrust your treasure to our clay. Sabbath in us a rest -- joyful as tambourines,  
nourishing as bread, and available to all people, rich and poor -- so that withered  
bodies and spirits can be restored. Amen**

### Song of Praise

### *Glory to God*

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has  
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-gin-ning, is  
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

**Hebrew Scripture**

## 1 Samuel 3

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

**Psalter**

## Psalm 139

CH765

**Gospel**

## Mark 2:23-3:6

One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath." Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

**Reflection****Rev. Joseph Blotz****Call to Prayer**

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 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**

God of mercy,  
we humbly ask that you hear us as  
we lift up our prayers as a community of faith.

God of the Sabbath, who desires to give us rest:  
hear the groaning of those to whom rest is unimaginable  
because their safety is constantly threatened  
and they are impoverished of their basic needs.

Hear the sound of those to whom  
rest is a reality far away  
because their hearts are broken with loss, grief, and pain  
and their minds and body have grown weary  
with illness and heavy burdens.

Stir us to heed your call as a church and as leaders,  
as individuals, and as those who are in authority.  
May we not be troubled by the mountains and the waves  
of the struggles before us,  
but may we trust in your extraordinary power.

As we wait and press forward for the day  
when rest is assured with justice, healing, and love,  
grant us a peace that this world cannot give  
but can be found only through 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.**

**Musical Offering**

*O Christ the Healer*

CH503

*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 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**

**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.**

**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 - ral! 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.*

**Hymn**

*O For a World*

CH683

**Benediction**

## **The Week Ahead...**

### **Sunday, June 2**

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

### **Monday, June 3**

10am First Church Leads Worship at St Joe's

7-9pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday, June 4**

10:30am First Church Leads Worship at MCNR

5:30pm CPR Training in Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Windham Association Meeting on Zoom

### **Wednesday, June 5**

1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, June 6**

9:30am Serving and Service in Fellowship Hall

12:15pm Contemplative Communion

### **Saturday, June 8**

11am Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of George Bailey

### **Sunday, June 9**

10:15am Worship with the Baptism of Emma Kate Clauson and Worship Circle

3pm Take Note Concert in the Sanctuary