



**The First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**
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Ministers: All the Members of the Church
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 4, 2024

Today's Worship Leader: The Reverend Lois Happe

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!

Playing the Chimes and Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Rev. Lois Happe

***Opening Hymn**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

#622

Prayer for Transformation

We come, O God, recognizing that we often fall short of the mark, that we justify ourselves too easily, that we often choose convenience when compassion is needed. We would do better, but our weariness invites us to resist knowing, feeling, trusting as we ought. We ask that you grant us, again, the full measure of the power of love, that we may offer to each other an experience of what you intend for the whole world.

Silence

Words of Grace

We are not alone. As we open our hearts, the Spirit fills us and renews us with her presence. Thanks be to God.

***Song of Praise**

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it
7
was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 16: 2, 9-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

So Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the people,

'Draw near to God, for your complaining has been heard.'"

And as Aaron spoke, they looked to the wilderness
and the glory of God appeared in the cloud.

Then God spoke to Moses and said,

"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites;

say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat,

and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread;

then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp;

and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

When the layer of dew lifted,

there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance,

as fine as frost on the ground.

When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another,

"What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Psalter

Psalms 78, excerpts

Although the people of Israel had lost faith in God's power to save them, nevertheless, God heard their cry. He commanded the clouds and gave orders that opened the gates of heaven.

**We will tell the coming generations the glories of the deeds of God,
the wonders God has done.**

God rained down showers of manna to eat; he gave them the Bread of Heaven.

They ate the bread of angels; God sent them food in abundance.

**We will tell the coming generations the glories of the deeds of God,
the wonders God has done.**

God rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas.

They ate and were well filled for God gave them what they craved.

**We will tell the coming generations the glories of the deeds of God,
the wonders God has done.**

Gospel

John 6:24-35

The beginning of chapter 6 of John's gospel tells the story of Jesus' feeding of five thousand people, using the five loaves and two fishes offered by a young boy. This story is one of the few reported in all four gospels, so it is an important part of Jesus' ministry.

According to Jewish tradition, the Messiah would be recognized when he repeated the miracle of Exodus, when the people of Israel were fed by manna and quails. This is the context for why the people were curious about what sign Jesus was prepared to reveal.

When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him,

"Rabbi, when did you come here?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you,

you are looking for me, not because you saw signs,

but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
 Do not work for the food that perishes,
 but for the food that endures for eternal life,
 which the Son of Man will give you,
 for it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”
 Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”
 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God,
 that you believe in him whom he has sent.”
 So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then,
 so that we may see it and believe you?
 What work are you performing?
 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness;
 as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”
 Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you,
 it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven,
 but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.
 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven
 and gives life to the world.”
 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”
 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life.
 Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
 and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Reflection

Rev. Lois Happe

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

*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.**

Invitation to Generosity

*Your financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates as they come around,
 or mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, PO Box 36, Mansfield Center, CT 06250,
 or given online at: www.myfcc.info*

Musical Offering

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
Laurel Thurman and Cheryl Chase

*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

We bring these tithes and offerings to you, O God, for your blessing, that they may be multiplied so we may extend the ministry of your church in this place. May we serve our neighbors, embrace our children, and bear witness to your Presence among us. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Communion Prayer

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.

...with the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name, singing:

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!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. We give you thanks for these gifts and for your faithful presence among us. Send us forth to be

your people in the world. Grant us wisdom, courage and strength to persevere in resisting evil and supporting good, proclaiming the power we find in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn**

God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

#439

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace**

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude