



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield  
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250  
860.423.9008 + [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info)

Ministers: All the Members of the Church  
Erik Haeger, Organist  
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ AUGUST 11, 2024**

Today's Worship Leader: The Rev. Charles Ericson

**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**

**Centering in the Spirit**

As the hour of worship begins, we wait for God's Spirit to be revealed to us.

**God's Spirit can be revealed in a myriad of ways if we are prepared to receive it.**

We can begin by clearing our minds of the trivial thoughts that have been swirling around inside us.

**And when our minds are clear, there is room for God's Spirit to enter in.**

So, with clear minds...open hearts...and alert senses...

**Let us wait together for God's Spirit to be revealed among us!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

**CH241**

**Prayer for Transformation**

God of Mystery and Wonder, As we follow the path of faith, the way is not always straight and smooth. At times, our fragile humanity leads us to wander...to stumble...to freeze...and to even turn back. Inspire us, we pray, to accept our frailty, remembering that even Jesus wept in agony in the garden before rising to take up the cross. Remind us that there is always forgiveness with you, and in your mercy you will forever guide us back to the path of faith and new life.

*moment of silence*

**Words of Grace**

**The Psalmist proclaims that "with God there is steadfast love; with God there is great power to redeem". This divine love surrounds and embraces us now,**

affirming us in our imperfect humanity, and empowering us to walk the path of faith with renewed devotion, and without regret. 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. Worldwith-out end, world with-out  
4 par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-ginning, is  
end, A - men. Worldwith-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.  
8 1. now and ev - er shall be, A - men 2. Worldwith-out men!

**Hebrew Scripture**

I Kings 19:4-8

<sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." <sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup>He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." <sup>8</sup>He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

**Epistle**

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

<sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## Gospel

John 6:35, 41-51

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

## Reflection

"Cheap Faith?"

Rev. Charles Ericson

## Hymn

God, Whose Giving Has No Ending

CH 606

## Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

9

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

## Musical Offering

If Not Now

Carrie Newcomer

offered by Howard Drescher 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

**Loving and Generous God, each morning we arise to receive the abundance of your goodness: nourishment for our bodies, inspiration for our souls, shelter for protection and satisfaction from our labors. Out of gratitude for all of this and more, we present our offerings to you now, and dedicate them to the ministries and missions of our church, where these gifts will be transformed into acts of love and kindness, touching the lives of people of all ages, in all places, in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

## \*Closing Hymn

Jesu, Jesu

CH600 (Verses 1,2,3,5)

## \*Benediction

Now may God bless you and keep you;  
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;  
May God's countenance be lifted up upon you and give you peace. Amen.

## \*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