



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

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Charles Ericson, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**June 1, 2025**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ Communion Sunday**

**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**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Centering in the Spirit**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**ALL: for believing we can be born again.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**ALL: for the diversity of which all of Your creation is birthed.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**ALL: for the knowledge that we aren't always right and for the capability to change.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**ALL: for the desire to change structures and institutions that tell us community is less valuable than the individual.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**ALL: for the positivity, resistance, and beauty in this sometimes-ugly world.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**CH715**

**Prayer for Transformation**

**Creator, we have been led astray by the systems that promote individuality, greed, absolutism, and patriarchy. We know that you forgive us because You invite us into new birth again and again. You invite us to embody new understandings of collectivity and new ways of acting in and towards the world – to be witness to the evils of patriarchy and supremacy and the politics of people and ask us instead, to give gratitude and love. Be with us as we change to become more of what You ask us to be – joyful in the journey towards reparations and true Grace.**

*moment of silence*

We are indeed capable of opening our minds and our hearts and then to move in the world to live like Jesus had. We are looking up and looking out so that we may love, repent, and forgive one another, for we do indeed sense the image of You sprinkled throughout all of Creation. Amen.

Paul Vasile

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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.

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1. now and ev - er shall be, A - men

2. World with-out men!

## Acts 16:25-34

**25** About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. **26** Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. **27** When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. **28** But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." **29** The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. **30** Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **31** They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." **32** They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. **33** At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. **34** He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

John 17:20-26

**20** “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

**25** “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

The Rev. Chuck Ericson

## Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



## 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

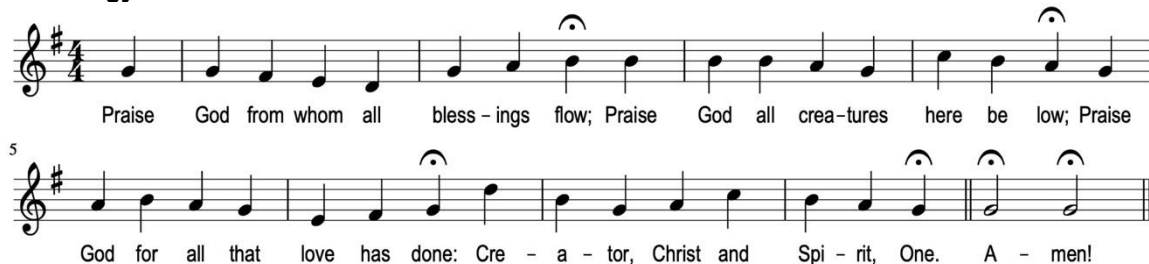
The ways in which we can give of ourselves are as vast as Creation on Mother Earth. You're now invited to give accordingly – to give knowing that what we do here matters in the bigger picture of the blessings that the Creator has accorded us.

*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*

## Musical Offering

Erik Haeger

### \*Doxology



### \*Prayer of Dedication

**We give thanks to you Creator, for the invitation to be alive in a world full of possibility with open minds and open hearts to live with great joy until we meet again. Amen.**

## ~ The Service of Holy Communion ~

**For visitors:** *At the Last Supper, Jesus turned no one away and imposed no restrictions on receiving the bread and the cup. Neither do we here at First Church in Mansfield. Christ's table is open at all, and we extend an extravagant welcome to you to join us. The communion elements will be brought to the pews by servers. Plates containing pieces of bread will be distributed first, followed by trays containing individual cups of grape juice. Each time, worshipers are asked to hold the elements until all have been served and an invitation to partake is spoken from the communion table. For those who wish to know, the cup contains non-alcoholic grape juice and the bread is gluten-free.*

### Communion Hymn

*O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near*

CH399

### Invitation to Communion

### 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.**

Let us continue in the spirit of prayer:

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made...

... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

### 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

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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

**We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

CH575

**\*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**

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*This morning's liturgy comes from the UCC's Worship Ways resource and was written by (Rev. Ellie Hutchinson, who serves as the Minister for Congregational and Community Engagement for the United Church of Christ.*

*The shift from receiving communion by intinction to passing trays of bread and juice from pew to pew has been made out of concern for the health of worshipers during this time of numerous colds and flu.*

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**THE WEEK AHEAD...**

Sunday, June 1	10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle; Communion Sunday 11:30 a.m. Potluck with the Pastoral Search Committee 2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible CT
Monday, June 2	6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal
Tuesday, June 3	10:30 a.m. MCNR Monthly Service 5:30 p.m. Worth Fighting For (Indivisible) Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, June 4	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee
Saturday, June 7	12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
Sunday, June 8	10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle 11:30 a.m. Parent Focus Group with Search Committee 3:00 p.m. Take Note Concert

**TODAY following worship**

Please join the Pastoral Search Committee for a  
**Potluck Lunch next Sunday**  
where they will share an overview of the survey results.

**Sunday, June 8 following worship**

**The Search Committee is hosting a focus group with parents  
who have children who participate in the worship circle.**

This will last approximately 45 minutes.  
Childcare will be provided during that time.

**Sunday, June 15 following worship**

**Join Bobbi Giardina for an  
Intergenerational Music-making Workshop**

**Sunday, June 22 following worship**

There will be a **Congregational Meeting**  
after worship on **Sunday, June 22**

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**CONCERT: Take Note! A Cappella Ensemble  
Sunday, June 8 at 3:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary**

Please plan to join Take Note! for their annual Donor Appreciation Concert.  
Donations to Take Note! Outreach gratefully accepted at the door.