



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

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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 22, 2025
Second Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit (*Inspired by Psalms 42 and 43*)

Dave Litrico

Leader: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so we long for God.

All: As the plants turn toward the sun, so we turn to God.

Leader: As the tide ebbs and flows, so we move with God.

All: Hope in God! Again, we worship the Holy One, our help and our God.

Leader: When tears are our constant companion, when our souls become weary, when we feel forgotten or alone, we may ask the question, "Where is God?"

All: Trust in God! Again, we honor the Present One, our strength and our God.

Leader: Deep calls to deep. The steadfast love of God surrounds us. The Spirit of Truth leads us to everlasting joy.

All: Rejoice in God. Again, we praise the Living One, our source and our God.

***Opening Hymn**

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

CH485

Prayer for Transformation

Holy One, as we experience difficult moments, we so often fail to recognize your abiding presence. We question if you exist or if you are with us when things do not go our way or when it seems that you have not kept promises we've manufactured from our wishes and dreams—and that you've never pledged to keep. Help us to turn to you in trust even when the present troubles us and the future seems bleak. Guide us into a prophetic imagination that realizes that your covenant is everlasting. Sustain us by faith for transformation and new life. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Beloved, the grace of God meets us even when we question, “Where is our God?” God is near, with us, behind us, and before us. Sometimes, the answers we seek come slowly in silence. Sometimes, God charges us to become the solution we need for one another. Whatever and however God replies to our cries, we may be assured that God’s peace, justice, and righteousness are central to the response. Receive the gift of new and renewing life in Christ.

*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-ginning, 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!

Christian Scripture

Galatians 3:23-29

23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. **24** Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. **25** But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, **26** for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. **27** As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Gospel

Luke 8:26-39

26 Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. **27** As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me,” **29** for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) **30** Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. **31** They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. **32** Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. **33** Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. **34** When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. **35** Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. **36** Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. **37** Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with

great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Reflection

"From Outcast to Evangelist"

Hymn

Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother?

CH486

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/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.**

Invitation to Generosity

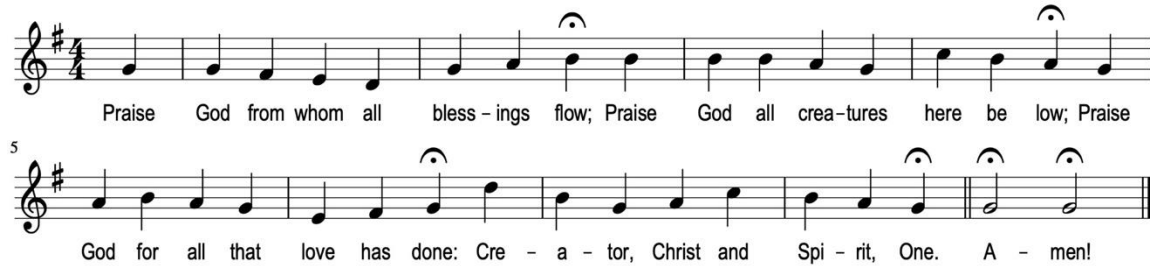
May we honor and worship the Provider of all good and perfect gifts through our acts of generosity, our sharing of resources, and our trust in the abundance of God's creation. Our morning offering will now be received.

*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

Generous God, through our giving, we acknowledge the role you have delegated to us in meeting our collective needs and allocating our resources of time, talent, and treasure for the good of all. May these offerings nurture ministry, further community engagement, and bring glory to your name. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

CH494

*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

Liturgical resources for the Second Sunday after Pentecost were written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

This morning's cantor is Laurel Thurman.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Sunday, June 22

10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle
11:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch & Congregational Meeting
2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible CT

Monday, June 23 through Friday, June 27 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Quiet Corner Quilt Camp

Tuesday, June 24 5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee

Wednesday, June 25 1:00 p.m. Book Group