



**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

Intentional Interim Minister: Rev. Charles Ericson

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

July 6, 2025 ~ Communion Sunday

Today's Worship Leader: Rev. Don Francois

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

Welcome and Announcements

Deb Hubbell

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit

Dave Litrico

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

Many: Shepherd and Source, you guide us in wisdom. You cover us in love.

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

Many: Comforter and Spirit, you encourage us in times of trouble. You strengthen us for the journey.

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

**Many: Redeemer and Friend, you hear our cry, redeem the years of struggle, and restore our joy.
Praise the Holy One!**

***Opening Hymn**

Come, Share the Lord

CH 408

Prayer for Transformation

O God, sometimes the journey is too much;
we can't go on, and we complain that we are all alone.
Nobody cares, not even you.
Our strength is gone, and we are ready to give up.
In those times,
when we are consumed with self-pity
and convinced there is no hope,
send your Spirit into our hearts to remind us of your sustaining grace.
Strengthen us at your Table and by the daily claiming of our baptism,
so we may go confidently on our journeys,
carrying out the mission you have given us.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

Hear the good news of God's love for us;
not in the earthquake, not in the storms, not in the mighty deeds

but in the silence, in the gentle touch, in the quiet rain
God says, again, "You are my Beloved. I love you."

*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
World with-out 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
end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men.
was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 6. 1-10

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads. ⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. ⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

Hebrew Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19.1-15a

Elijah Flees from Jezebel

¹⁹ Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid; ^a he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. ⁴ 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." ⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶ 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. ⁷ The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." ⁸ 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. ⁹ At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

Elijah Meets God at Horeb

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the

earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus..."

Reflection

A Still Small Voice

Rev. Don Francois

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

You are invited to pray in whatever language is most comfortable for you.

The following is 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.

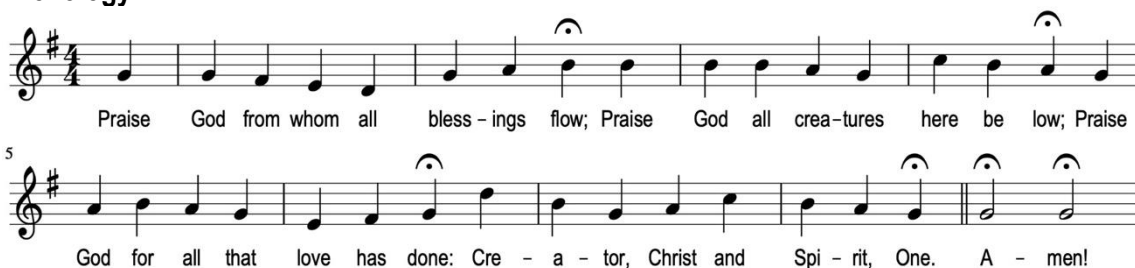
Invitation to Generosity

Galatians 6:2 challenges us to, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." The reign of God assures us that there is enough. The Holy One's creation and provision remains abundant, and we participate in the kingdom by refusing to hoard and to withhold from our siblings. Let us magnify the name of Creator by repudiating the falsehood of scarcity. Let us share in all things good given to us by the Generous One for common benefit and mutual aid.

Offertory

Erik Haeger

*Doxology



***Prayer of Dedication**

We give you thanks, Wise God, for cultivating generosity within us and alerting us to the needs around us. Use these gifts for the expansion of your will on earth and the blessing of your beloved. In your name and in hope, we give these gifts. 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

In Remembrance of Me

CH 403

Invitation to Communion

The Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

People: We are ready!

Pastor: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

People: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

People: "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

People: "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

People: We participate in the Body of Christ.

Pastor: Through the cup of blessing . . .

People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Pastor: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Unison 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. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

***Benediction**

Pastor: Let us never grow weary of doing what is right!

All: We will go to seek justice for all of God's children.

Pastor: Let us not grow weary of leading others to the kingdom!

All: We will go to follow Jesus' example of gathering all into grace.

Pastor: Let us not grow weary of speaking of hope and peace.

All: We will go to sow the Spirit's seed of life and hope.

***Passing the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you always.

And also with you.

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

Postlude

About our Guest Minister: The Rev. Don Francois is a retired pastor of the Tolland Association, UCC. He served as a pastor of the Ellington Congregational Church for twenty-four years, as Bridge Pastor at Enfield and Columbia UCC churches and as Interim Pastor of the Second Congregational Church of Coventry which is now his spiritual home. Don and his wife, Laurie, reside in Ellington.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Wednesday, July 9 5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee

Thursday, July 10 6:00 p.m. Governing Board

Sunday, July 13 10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle
2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible