



**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

**July 20, 2025**

**Sixth 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**

Rev. Chuck Ericson

**Prelude**

Erik Haeger

**Centering in the Spirit** (*inspired by Psalm 15*)

Howard Drescher

L: Who shall enter the gates of God's house of worship?

**A: All who refuse to live by lies and deceit, and instead speak truth from the heart.**

L: And who shall dwell on God's holy hill?

**A: All who do not engage in slander and blame, and instead show kindness and grace.**

L: And who shall abide in God's sanctuary?

**A: All who turn away from the trappings of glitz and greed, and instead seek the beauty and awe that comes from God.**

L: We come here to strengthen our souls and increase our faith...

**A: ...so that we may later depart from God's holy house to bring the peace and love to our world.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*What Is This Place*

CH289

**Prayer for Transformation**

**We thank you, dear God, for this holy place... this sacred place... this inviting and familiar place... where we delight to gather with one another surrounded by the comfort and power of your Spirit. We rejoice that we are each welcome here "no matter who we are or where we are in our life's journey" — whether certain in our faith or doubting, whether walking the straight and narrow path or stumbling along an unknown road, whether overflowing with joy or recently visited by sorrow. In these next few precious moments of silence, loving God, we will share with you our deepest spiritual needs and yearnings, knowing that you will receive them and respond, as always, with grace, mercy and new life. Amen.**

*moments of silence*

## Words of Grace

Just by sharing our inner desires with God in this way, the process of transformation has begun. Our souls have been opened to God. God has entered in. Redemption, rebirth and renewal are underway already. Rejoice and give thanks to God!

### \*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.

## Hebrew Scripture

Amos 8:1-3a, 4-12

8:1 This is what the Lord God showed me: a basket of summer fruit. 2 He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. 3 The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day," says the Lord God. 4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, 5 saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, 6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." 7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. 8 Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt? 9 On that day, says the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. 10 I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day. 11 The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. 12 They shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

## Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, 42 but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

## Reflection

"A Basket of Summer Fruit"

Rev. Chuck Ericson

## Hymn

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

CH73

## 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

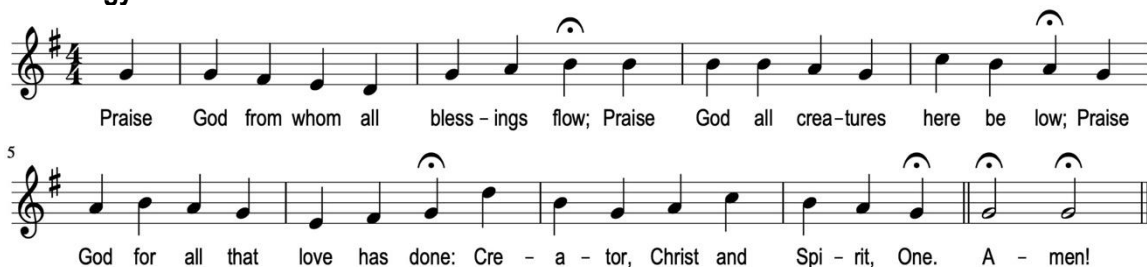
God asked Amos, "What do you see?". We are still being challenged with this question as God's people today. When we look around, we see a world that overflows with beauty and wonder, yet has urgent needs as well. The outreach ministries and missions of our church provide relief for those needs through our generous giving. In support of our congregation's efforts to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors near and far, the 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

**We ask your blessing, Holy One, upon the offerings we dedicate to you now, praying that they may be transformed into ministries that provide support, healing and hope to people and places with needs are far greater than our own. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*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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**Kristina Woodley and Jason DeAngelis will be married at noon today in our sanctuary with Pastor Chuck officiating. The wedding service is private, for family only. Special thanks to Julie Menard for helping with the wedding service.**

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**THE WEEK AHEAD...**

**TODAY**

12 noon Private Use of Sanctuary  
5:00 p.m. PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland

**Monday, July 21**

6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

**Tuesday, July 22**

5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee

**Thursday, July 24**

9:30 a.m. Quilt Group  
6:30 p.m. Private Use of Fellowship Hall

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**Summer Fellowship Opportunity – Carillon Concert**

Sunday, July 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Storrs Congregational Church, featuring Andrea McCrady, Dominion Carillonneur of Canada. Gather to socialize and stay until sunset, if you wish. Folks can bring chairs and their own picnic supper. Please contact Julie Menard with questions.