



**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

**July 27, 2025**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Today's Worship Leader: Cheryl Chase**

**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**

Cheryl Chase

**Prelude**

*This is the Day*

Worship Circle

**Centering in the Spirit** (*inspired by Psalm 118*)

Karen Christianson

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them.

**All: And we will praise the Lord.**

Leader: This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous shall enter.

**All: And we will praise the Lord.**

Leader: I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation..

**All: And we will praise the Lord.**

Leader: The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

**All: This was the Lord's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

**All: We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Give Thanks*

**CH 528**

**Reading**

*The Summer's Day, by Mary Oliver*

Julie Menard

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
 who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—  
 who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
 into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
 how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
 which is what I have been doing all day.  
 Tell me, what else should I have done?  
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
 with your one wild and precious life?

### Prayer for Transformation

**God of blessing, we ask that our hearts burdened by fear become hearts anchored in faith. We ask that where there is weariness, there may be renewal. We ask that where there is doubt, there may be faith and trust. Let your still small voice echo through our uncertainty. Amen.**

*moment of silence*

### Words of Grace

Beloved, in the quiet moments of this day, pause to remember that God's mercies are new every morning. Give thanks for the blessings that unfold, both seen and unseen: for the breath in our lungs, love in community, and the sacred promise that we are never alone.

### \*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

Lamentations 3:19-24

<sup>3</sup> <sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. <sup>20</sup> I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. <sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> Because of the Lord's

great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for the Lord.

## Gospel

Luke 11:1-10

**11** He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' **2** He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father,<sup>[a]</sup> hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.<sup>[b]</sup>

**3** Give us each day our daily bread.<sup>[c]</sup>

**4** And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'<sup>[d]</sup>

**5** And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; **6** for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." **7** And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." **8** I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

**9** So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. **10** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

## Reflection

"This is the Day"

Cheryl Chase

## Hymn

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

CH 61

## 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.

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

As recipients of God's daily gifts, we are invited to respond with daily generosity, not out of obligation but out of joy. Let us give as we have been gifted, gratefully, freely, and with open hearts.

### Musical Offering

*"What a Wonderful World"*  
by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

Howard Drescher

### \*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

Generous God, You pour out blessing upon blessing – some we notice, many we miss, but all are from You. Receive these gifts we offer, given from what we have received. Bless them, and bless us, that these offerings may become acts of healing, justice, and hope in the lives of others and signs of your presence in the world. Amen.

### \*Closing Hymn

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

CH 606

### \*Benediction

Go now with open eyes, ready to notice blessings in disguise, with open hearts, ready to give and receive love and compassion, and with open hands, ready to share the grace you have received.

### \*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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### THE WEEK AHEAD...

**TODAY** 2 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible

**Saturday, August 2** 12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts