



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

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

860.423.9008 + [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info)

Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Charles Ericson, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**August 10, 2025  
Ninth 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 Hebrews 11*)

Dave Litrico

L: Scripture teaches us that: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for...

**A: ...and the conviction of things not seen.**

L: We do not see the full glory of God with our eyes...

**A: ...but we know that God's glory is here in our midst as we gather this morning.**

L: We do not see one another when we are apart...

**A: ...but we know that we love and cherish one another at all times.**

L: We do not see what the future holds for us...

**A: ...but we know that God will be with us and provide for us no matter what.**

L: As the hour of worship now begins, we hold fast to these hopes and convictions:

**A: That God is here... we love each other always... and God is with us as the future unfolds!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Faith While Trees Are Still in Blossom*

**CH535**

**Prayer for Transformation**

**Loving and Ever-Present God, Like the trees that are still in blossom throughout these summer months, our souls are often grounded and productive. Yet when harsh winds and storms come along in our lives, the roots of our faith can be tested. We can bend...even break sometimes. We pray for your grace and guidance when these challenges arise in our lives, as we share with you in silence the present longings of our hearts. Amen.**

*moment of silence*

**Words of Grace**

Friends, even now God's healing, merciful Spirit is gently falling upon us like refreshing showers and nourishing sunlight! The winds and storms have subsided and passed. Shake it off...rise up to new life, and let your branches reach high with joy and your roots reach deeply in faith.

### \*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

4  
 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.

8  
 1. now and ev - er shall be, A - men  
 2. World with-out men!

### Hebrew Scripture

Psalms 33:12-22

- 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.  
 13 The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.  
 14 From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—  
 15 He who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.  
 16 A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.  
 17 The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.  
 18 Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
 19 To deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.  
 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.  
 21 Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name.  
 22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

### Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

**32** "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **35** "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; **36** be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. **37** Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. **38** If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. **39** "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. **40** You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

**Reflection**      "Faith Lessons of the Beatles: *Ringo — Always Ready*"      Rev. Chuck Ericson

**Hymn**      *Blessed Assurance*      **CH543**

**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**

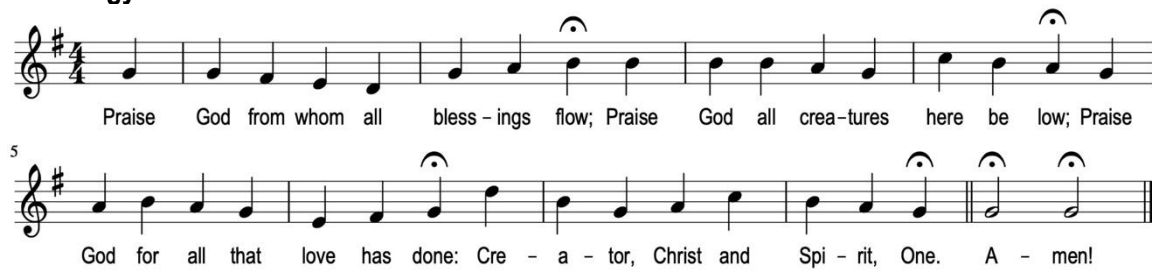
As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be ready to respond at all times when pressing needs arise in our community and our world: shelter...nourishment...advocacy...justice...healthcare...hope. We are prepared to provide for these, and other, needs through the outreach ministries of our church that are supported by our faithful and generous giving. In this spirit, 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,  
or given online at: [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info)*

**Musical Offering**

Erik Haeger

### \*Doxology



### \*Prayer of Dedication

**We ask your blessing, dear God, on the gifts and offerings we now bring to you, and ask you to guide them to places and people whose needs are far greater than our own. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

**CH337**

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

#### **Sunday, August 10**

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle  
2 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible

#### **Wednesday, August 13**

5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee

#### **Thursday, August 14**

6:00 p.m. Governing Board (Zoom)

#### **Saturday, August 16**

12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts