



**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

November 2, 2025

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints' Sunday ~ Communion Sunday**

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 Psalm 32*)

Alex Hewes

One: Our world is a wondrous place to live — overflowing with joys, blessings and even miracles.

Many: Yet it is not perfect; for our world can also bring heartache, judgment and fear.

One: We are never left hopeless, though, when the harsh realities of life come our way.

Many: For we can always find a hiding place in our God, who preserves us from trouble.

One: God surrounds us with strength and delivers us from whatever threats we may face.

Many: Right now... right here... we have entered the place where we are secure in God's love.

One: As we worship, we gain new strength... new confidence... and new hope.

Many: And when this time of worship ends, we will emerge from God's hiding place.

One: We will go out into our world equipped with purpose and faith to serve and to love.

Many: Come, let's worship!

***Opening Hymn**

For All the Saints

CH637

Prayer for Transformation

On this occasion when we celebrate All Saints Day, Holy One, we confess that we have mistakenly thought of a saint as a paragon of virtue, when truly a saint is simply one who humbly strives to live a Christ-like life, knowing that perfection is not a possibility. As we pause for a few moments of silent reflection, please hear each of us as we share with you the challenges we sometimes face in our aspirations to be "everyday" saints. Assure us of your promise of grace, and your offering of wisdom, as we grow into sainthood one day at a time. Amen.

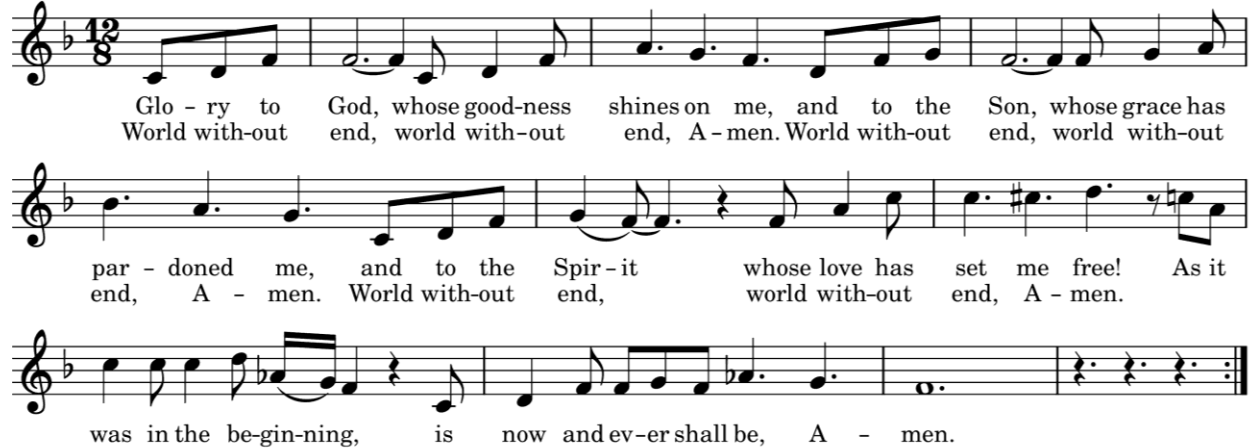
Words of Grace

Kindred saints, find happiness in knowing that God's mercy and grace go with us at all times as we live... and serve... and follow in the way of Jesus: imperfectly to be sure, yet always faithfully, humbly and true.

*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

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

2 I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. **2** A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. **3** He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. **5** When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." **6** So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. **7** All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." **8** Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." **9** Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Reflection

"Refraining from Judgment"

Rev. Chuck Ericson

Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

CH487

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.

Moment for Stewardship: A Season of Thankfulness

Invitation to Generosity

The outreach missions and ministries of our church continue the long Christian tradition of sharing God's love without judgment: if someone is hungry, we offer food; if a neighbor is on the street, we offer shelter;

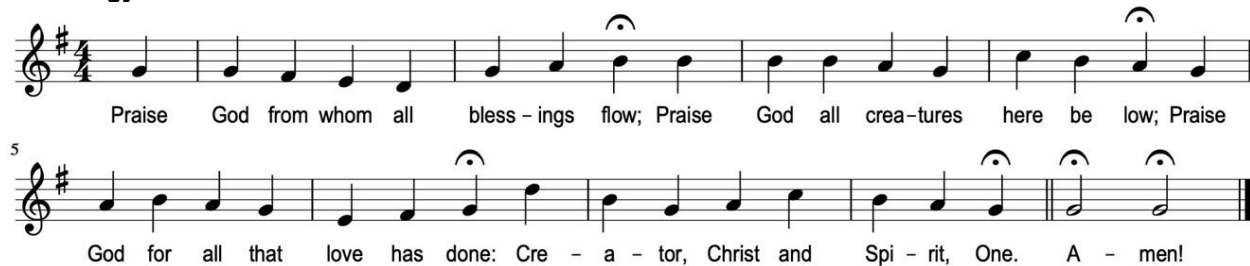
where people face oppression, we seek justice; where infirmity and suffering persist, our desire is to heal; where children, youth and adults are eager to learn about the good news of Jesus, we teach. In this spirit, our gifts and offerings will now be received so that these ongoing ministries may persevere with unconditional love, and without judgment.

*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



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

We ask your blessing upon these gifts and offerings, Gracious God, and pray that you would transform them into ministries that provide food, shelter, justice, healing and good news to our neighbors near and far, without judgment... only love. Amen.

~ The Service of Holy Communion ~

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

Let Us Break Bread Together

CH425

Invitation to Communion

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them up to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us continue in the spirit of prayer:

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made...

... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Musical Response

Santo Santo Santo

Traditional Argentine

San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

5
co - ra - zon te sa - be de-cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

I Come With Joy

CH420

*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

Our shift from receiving Communion by intinction to the tradition of passing trays of bread and juice from pew to pew has been made from our concern for health (risk of germ transmission) as well as our hope to create a more unified, communal experience whereby worshippers partake of the elements at the same time.

*Our Cantor today is Laurel Thurman.
Coffee Hour hosts are David Darnell and Gary Cote.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH...

TODAY: following worship, we will work on assembling Church World Service kits in Fellowship Hall.

Monday, November 3	6:30 p.m. Take Note! Rehearsal
Tuesday, November 4	10:30 a.m. Monthly service at Mansfield Center for Nursing & Rehab
Wednesday, November 4	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group
Thursday, November 5	9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service 6:15 p.m. Windham Region Arts Council (in Fellowship Hall) 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (in the Sanctuary)
Friday, November 6	6:30 p.m. Northeast CT Community Orchestra rehearsal
Saturday, November 8	12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Friday, November 14, 6:00 p.m.

Be sure to mark your calendar for one of our church community's favorite events! A delicious lasagna dinner followed by lots of laughter and friendly competition during the silent auction.

Tickets are available from Donna Clauson and Laurel Thurman
Adults \$20, Children under 8 \$10

Consider donating something to the auction. Every one of us has gifts or talents that others would love to own. The more items of value donated, the more \$\$\$\$ we can raise. In the past we've raised as much as \$5000. Do your holiday shopping and help First Church at the same time!

Contribution Forms can be found in the sanctuary pews and in Fellowship Hall. There is a box in Fellowship Hall for completed forms. There is also a link to an electronic submission form in the weekly email. Please submit your Contribution Sheet(s) by Sunday, November 9th.

Items may be dropped off in Fellowship Hall any time the week of the Auction, but no later than 10 a.m. on November 14th.