



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

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Don Erickson, Pastor

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

May 24, 2026 – Pentecost 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!

Privacy Notice: Our worship service is made available digitally for those who cannot attend in person. Footage from this service may be used in marketing materials for our community. If you do not wish to have your likeness recorded, streamed, or photographed please inform a Greeter who can seat you appropriately.

Playing the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Call to Worship (based on the work of Rufus Jones)

Deep calls unto deep; the deep in God calls to the deep in us,
and we know each other".

We are not here to seek a distant deity,
but to recognize the Light that is intimately woven into our own spirits.

The human heart is as sensitive to God as the retina is to light waves.
Let us set aside the noise of the world and enter into the sacred silence.

For worship is a double search—our reaching up from below and from within,
and a divine movement of grace downward and inward from Beyond.

May we open our lives to the Real Face of God.

**Let us center ourselves in Christ, expecting to be met,
and listening for the voice of the Spirit in the quietude.**

Silent Prayer of Confession

Words of Grace (based on work of Rufus Jones)

**In the quiet depths of our being, we feel the Divine Presence.
God does not dwell far off in the heavens,
but meets us in the 'Beyond Within'.
God's grace is sufficient to wash away the shadows of yesterday.
As we incline our hearts to the Light, we are made new.
The wall of separation is broken down,
and we are forgiven, restored, and freed to love."**

***Opening Hymn**

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

CH 594

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament

Acts 2:1-12

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When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

***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.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23; 7:37-39

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

A Meditation in Hymns "Christian Mysticism: Rufus Jones" Rev. Don Erickson

Hymn *Walking Alone (Lowell's Song)* bulletin p.6

Hymn *God's Inner Light* bulletin p.7

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.

9 Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Jesus

Please pray with 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 help us yield not to/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

Offertory

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 (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

Empowering God, you are the one who pours out your Spirit on sons and daughters, on young and old, on leaders and servants alike. You have not withheld your gifts, but have shared them freely: truth, empathy, vision, and power. As your Spirit-filled people, we now offer our gifts—not out of fear or obligation, but in response to your boundless generosity. Use these offerings to fuel the prophetic witness of your church, to bless those still yearning for hope, and to build a community where all are seen, heard, and loved. May our giving, like your Spirit, be poured out without limit. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

My Life Flows On

CH 619

***Closing Prayer** (based on the work of Rufus Jones)

Gracious and Indwelling Spirit, Our minds stilled, help our souls to remain open to your presence and your love. We thank You for the Light that shines within us, guiding our hearts and uniting us with the divine. Help us to see that the beauty of Your Spirit is found in the everyday tasks of life. As we leave this space, let us carry the peace of this stillness with us, remaining constant and deeply anchored in Your steady, eternal love. May we become lanterns lit with love, kindling a flame of service, compassion, and unity in all that we do. 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 greeter this morning is Carol Fineout.

Our cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Coffee hour is hosted by Olivia Russell and the Children's Worship Circle.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship!

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) 6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

Tuesday, May 26 6:00 p.m. Community Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, May 27 1:00 p.m. Book Group
(No Meditation Group this week)

Thursday, May 28 9:30 a.m. Quilt Group
4:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall set-up for Memorial Service

Saturday, May 30 1:00 p.m. Celebration of the Life of Loris Masterton

Walking Alone (Lowell's Song)

WORDS: Don Erickson
(based on the writing of Rufus Jones)

MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824
HAMBURG

Walk - ing a - lone that sum - mer night, my mind se -
A tel - e - gram then scream'd the words, a loss so
Saved me, Lowell did, helped me to see - child - like - ness
Noth - ing sub - merg'd me in God's life more than the
That sum - mer night, that walk in light some - how pre -

rene im - mersed in light, God's sim - ple pre - sence,
deep, my life chang'd, torn. O, my God, how you
is God's way to be; How gen - tle - ness, love,
life of Lowell in heav'n. Nor shown by heart a
pared me for grief's plight. Now I know deep - ly

love's em - brace. No words, no thought, just in - fi - nite grace.
know such pain, los - ing a son, cries n'er to wane.
cour - age, trust gifts a good life, a life like Christ's.
love so vast. Our mys - tic u - nion will ne - ver end.
de - spite death, love ne - ver leaves, his love ne - ver left.

An Inner Light (the Church's Call)

WORDS: Don Erickson
(based on the writing of Rufus Jones)

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899
FINLANDIA

An in-ner light, each hu-man soul en-shrines. Christ's light with-in, a
When war a-bounds, and peace is hart to find, when hate and rage, men's
Our cir-cle here is for the world to see. We're here to show and

light seed lum-i-nous. This spir'tual life in-fused with love di-vine
hard-en'd hearts con-trol, our light with-in is God's own re-me-dy
to ex-em-pli-fy what hea-ven's like, the way the world should be.

is God's life now, here in this world a-miss. Yes, God needs us as
to change the world, trans-form-ing soul by soul. For love to win and
May that of God move us to u-ni-fy. So let us prac-tice

much as we need God. God needs us here to be God's mind and heart.
for just peace to bloom re-quires us to act as the kin-dom come.
and sing har-mo-ny and may our song sound beau-ty's sym-pho-ny.

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group will **NOT** meet on Wednesday, May 27th.

**During the summer, the group will meet monthly
on the first Wednesday, beginning in June.**

**The monthly service at Mansfield Nursing & Rehab Center
will go on hiatus for June, July, and August.**

Celebrations of Life

Loris Masterton on Saturday, May 30 at 1 p.m.

Ellen Boehle on Saturday, June 6 at 11 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our June Congregational Meeting will take place on
Sunday, June 28th immediately following worship.