



**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. Don Erickson, Pastor  
Erik Haeger, Organist  
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator  
Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

**May 31, 2026 - Trinity 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**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

Erik Haeger

**Call to Worship** (read responsively with the singing of "Kum ba Yah")

O Holy God, open unto me, light for my darkness, courage for my fear, hope for my despair.

**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!** (first musical phrase)

O loving God, open unto me wisdom for my confusion, forgiveness for my sins, love for my hate.

**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!** (second musical phrase)

O God of peace, open unto me peace for my turmoil, joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness.

**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!** (third musical phrase)

O Generous God, open my heart to receive all your gifts.

**O, Lord, kum ba yah!**

-- *Howard Thurman*

**Silent Prayer of Confession**

**"Our egos are like a fortress, built stone by stone. But God's love is the light that breaks through all barriers. In this moment of grace, we let go of our accumulations, our alibis, and our fears. Hear the good news: God's spirit is an open door. Where there is darkness, there is light; where there is weakness, there is strength; and where there are sins, there is forgiveness. By this grace, you are forgiven, you are renewed, and you are called to walk in peace. Amen."**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Woke Up This Morning*

CH 623 (alt words)

*Oh, I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus...*

*Oh, I'm walking and talking with my mind stayed on Jesus...*

*Oh, I'm living and loving with my mind stayed on Jesus...*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Hebrew Scripture**

*Psalm 113*

Gary Cote

*We praise you, O Lord!  
As your servants, O Lord,  
we praise your name.  
Blessed be your name,  
from this time on and forevermore.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
you name be praised.  
You transcend all the nations  
and your glory shines beyond the heavens.  
Who is like you, Lord our God,  
You who transcends this world,  
who looks upon  
on the heavens and the earth?  
You raise the poor from the dust  
and lift the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes and royalty,  
You give the empty ones  
a home full of continuous hope.  
We praise you, O Lord!*

**\*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

Luke 1:46-55

*And Mary said,*

*"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;  
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."*

## Pastoral Meditation "Christian Mysticism: Howard Thurman"

**Hymn** *Mystic Moment in India*

**Hymn** *Jesus and the Disinherited*

## Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 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

### 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/trespases,  
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

5 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise  
God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

### \*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

**Gracious and Almighty God, our souls glorify you for the great things you have done. You have showered us with abundant blessings and mercy. As we**

**bring our tithes and offerings today, we offer our very lives back to you. May these gifts be used to lift up the lowly, bring good news to the hungry, and proclaim your justice in our communities. Accept these offerings, not as a mere duty, but as a joyful song of praise from our spirits, recognizing that everything we have comes from your steadfast love. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*I Am the Light of the World*

CH 469

**\*Closing Prayer** *(words by Howard Thurman)*

*May you keep fresh before you the moments of your high resolve.*

*In the quietness you experience, surrounded by the all-pervading Presence of God, may your heart whisper this truth: Keep fresh before you the moments of your High Resolve, that in fair weather or in foul, in good times or in tempests, in the days when the darkness and the foe are nameless or familiar, you may not forget that to which your life is committed.*

*Keep fresh before you the moments of your high resolve.*

**\*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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*Privacy Notice: Our worship service is made available digitally for those who cannot attend in person. Footage from this service may also 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*

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Our greeter this morning is Deb Richards

Our cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Coffee hour is hosted by Donna Clauson.

***Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship!***

### **Meditation Group**

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

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

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### **CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE**

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

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### **SAVE THE DATE!**

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

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

#### **Monday, June 1**

6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

#### **Wednesday, June 3**

1:00 p.m. Book Group

5:00 p.m. Meditation Group

#### **Thursday, June 4**

9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service

#### **Saturday, June 6**

11:00 a.m. Celebration of the Life of Ellen Boehle

# A Mystic Moment in India

WORDS: Don Erickson  
(based on the writing of Howard Thurman)

MUSIC: John B. Dykes (1823-1876)  
ST. AGNES

1. I climbed up to a foot-hill's height, In - di - a's  
2. At dawn's first ink - ling, all grew still, on - ly hushed,  
3. All time and space and cir - cum - stance, all then dis -  
4. Such a deep love en - vel - oped me, such still - ness  
5. Four de - cades since, that ra - diant dawn, that mo - ment

win - ter warm. Com - plete - ly dark, al - most qui -  
dis - tant breaths. The sun's faint pink paint - brushed the  
solved like mist. My heart and mind in won - der  
and such peace. There are no words that can de -  
tran - scen - dent, it's bles - sed - ness, its glo - ry

et, soft con - ver - sa - tions sound.  
sky. The land - scape born a - fresh.  
saw the di - vine myst' - ry's depths.  
scribe In - di - a's mark on me.  
stays, God's light e - ver pre - sent.

# Jesus and the Disinherited

WORDS: Don Erickson  
(based on the writing of Howard Thurman)

MUSIC: traditional American folk origin  
NEW BRITAIN

1. Je - sus you felt a - buse of power, the  
2. You knew the fear of des - perate times, your  
3. These worn, bent backs a - gainst the wall will  
4. Love's power will o'er - come love of power, the  
5. Till then, our suff' - ring e - ver hard, we'll

reign of em - pire's hate. Rank vio - lence nailed you  
back a - gainst the wall. You used no vio - lence  
see stones rolled a - way. We'll live the way Christ  
hills brought low, vales raised. The lo - sers' won, the  
per - se - vere and rise. We share God's like - ness,

to that cross, ma - ny a poor man's fate.  
in re - turn, the sword of love your call.  
showed to us: love, mer - cy, jus - tice, faith.  
last now first to bask in glo - ry's days.  
e - qual all. You join the suff' - ring's side.