The 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

Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Reverend Dr. Susan J. Foster, Bridge Minister
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

November 1, 2026 ~ Communion Sunday

Thought for the Week

"Teach your mouth to speak what is in your heart."
~ Abba Poeman (4th century Christian monk) ~

Playing the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Erik Haeger

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to remember God's promise:
People: We are not alone.
Leader: We gather to remember Christ's invitation:
People: To share his Love with one another.
Leader: We gather to remember the Holy Spirit's power:
People: The fullness of life that we might live.
Leader: God moves among us with intention, daring us to dream, giving us hope.
People: Let us worship God with gratitude and offer God our thanks and praise.

***Opening Hymn** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* CH 453

Call to Confession
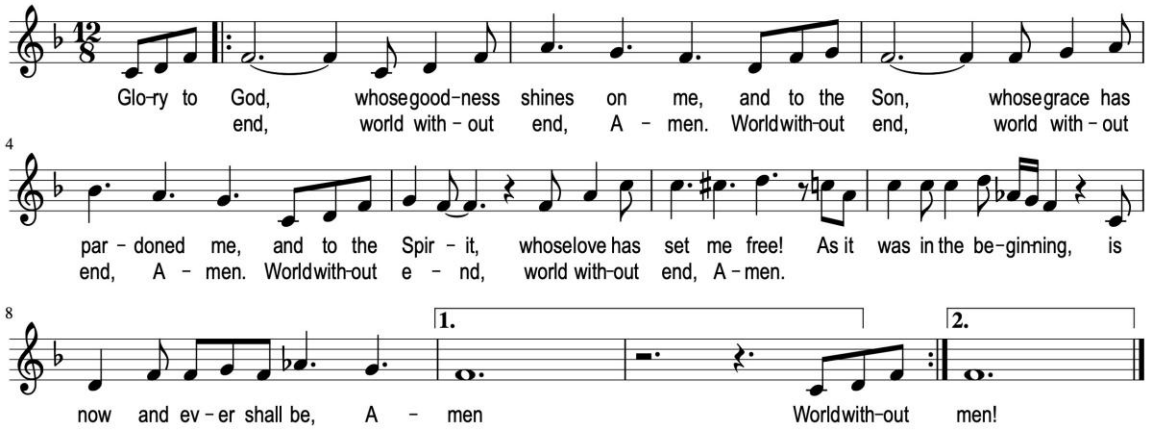
Prayer of Confession and New Life *(inspired by Called as Partners in Christ's Service)*

Loving God, you call as partners in Christ's service. We are called to ministries of grace. Forgive us when we speak words of faith but fail to follow through with our actions. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend. Help us be equal partners in our caring to fulfill your chosen end. May it be so, holy God. Fill us with your love so we may be your church. Amen.

Words of Grace

Friends, hear the Good News - God so loved this world - and every single person in it - so much that God gave his only Son. In Jesus Christ we see God face to face and we hear of his mercy. Standing therefore in Jesus Christ, I celebrate with you the Good News - that we are loved, we are forgiven, we are cherished by God. Let us rejoice in this today and always. Amen.

***Song of Praise** *Glory to God* Paul Vasile



First Reading Micah 3: 5-12

Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets
who lead my people astray,
who cry "Peace"
when they have something to eat
but declare war against those
who put nothing into their mouths.
Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,
and darkness to you, without revelation.
The sun shall go down upon the prophets,
and the day shall be black over them;

the seers shall be disgraced
and the diviners put to shame;

they shall all cover their lips,
for there is no answer from God.
But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the spirit of the LORD,
and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression
and to Israel his sin.

Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob
and chiefs of the house of Israel,
who abhor justice
and pervert all equity,
who build Zion with blood
and Jerusalem with wrong!

Its rulers give judgment for a bribe;
its priests teach for a price;
its prophets give oracles for money;
yet they lean upon the LORD and say,
"Surely the LORD is with us!
No harm shall come upon us."

Therefore because of you
Zion shall be plowed as a field;
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
and the mountain of the temple a wooded height.

Second Reading Matthew 23: 1-12
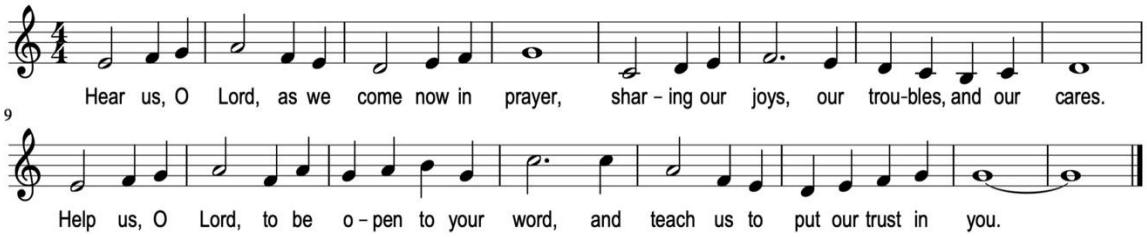
Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, **2** "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses's seat; **3** therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. **4** They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,[a] and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. **5** They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. **6** They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues **7** and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. **8** But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. **9** And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. **10** Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. **11** The greatest among you will be

your servant. **12** All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Reflection **"**Walking the Walk" Rev. Sue Foster

Hymn *I Would Be True* CH 608

Call to Prayer *Hear Us O Lord* Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to pray in whatever language is most comfortable for you. The following examples are offered:

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 / help us yield not to temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

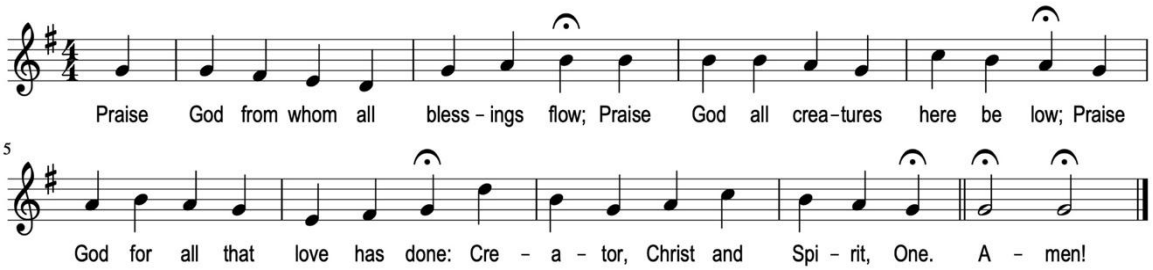
A Moment for Stewardship Karen Christianson

Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

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**



***Prayer of Dedication**

Loving and generous God, thank you for sharing your blessings with us every day. Open our eyes and our hearts to recognize and receive your gifts. Help us to live our faith by extending your grace with your people everywhere. Bless our offerings and gifts that we might share your Good News in our world that needs your hope and new life. Amen.

~ The Service of Holy Communion ~

For visitors: *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.*

Invitation to Communion

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.
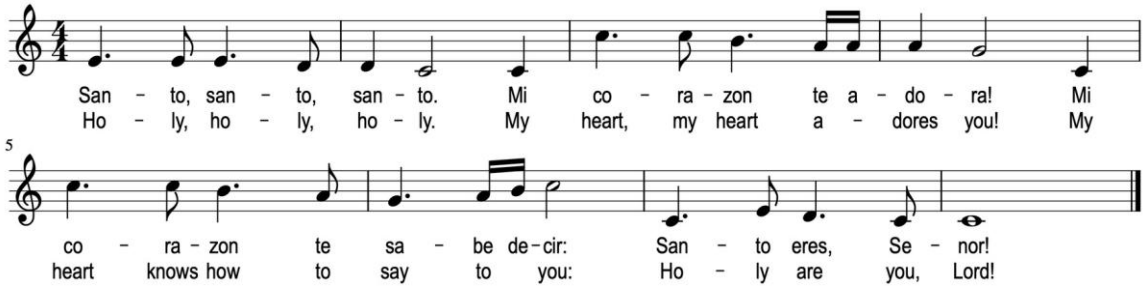
We open them up to God and one another.

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…

Musical Response **Santo Santo Santo** **Traditional Argentine**



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 thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of your table and the present love of Jesus Christ. We thank you for the company of your great cloud witnesses, here in this place, in all the time zones across the globe and throughout your creation's history. Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world… renewed, invigorated, and committed, so that we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe and comfort, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (NCH 537)* bulletin back page

***Benediction**

***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

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!

Special Communion Sunday Offering

*An envelope labeled **Blessing Box** is included in your bulletin on Communion Sundays (every first Sunday of the month.) You may place donations in this envelope and drop it into the offering plate during worship. Every contribution goes directly toward purchasing food for our pantry.*

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.

Our Greeters this morning are Julie Menard and Steve Lane.
Our Cantor is Howard Drescher.
Our Communion servers are Gary Cote, David Darnell, Barbara Dobrocki, Ray LaPointe.
Our Digital Minister is Deb Hubbell.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments after worship!
All are welcome!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, November 2	6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal
Tuesday, November 3	ELECTION DAY - Vote with Love!
Wednesday, November 4	1:00 p.m. Book Group
Thursday, November 5	9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service 4:00 p.m. Administry 5:30 p.m. Windham Region Arts Council
Saturday, November 7	12:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Second Hour programs coming in November!

Sunday, November 8, 11:30 a.m.
Search Update
Grab a cup of coffee and join members of the Search Committee in Fellowship Hall for an update and conversation. They have been busy!

Sunday, November 15, 11:30 a.m.
Conversation with the WAIM Director
Dwayne David Paul, the new Executive Director of Windham Area Interfaith Ministries, will talk about WAIM's mission and the range of services and resources the organiation provides.

Sunday, November 22, 11:30 a.m.
Potluck, Presentation and Discussion - "Cultivating Shalom"
Jana MacDonald, a native of Mansfield, will be with us to talk about ***Cultivating Shalom.*** *She is a writer, educator, and everyday peacemaker who believes that learning to become better neighbors is holy work.*

FIVE GUYS FUNDRAISER
Sunday, November 15th - 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Enjoy a fun meal of burgers, fries, and fundraising for First Church!

For one day only - Sunday, November 15 - Five Guys will donate 20% of the sales brought in by First Church family and friends at their Mansfield location. And we'll receive an additional $1 for every milkshake purchased. Just present our flyer at the counter and pick up some food (and/or gift cards) and you'll support our cause! Pick up a flyer from the front table in the sanctuary.

WAIM WALK FOR WARMTH

The 34th Annual Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) Walk for Warmth will take place on Sunday, November 22, 2026, in Willimantic. **You can support the team of walkers from First Church at http://www.PledgeReg.com/581312**

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry

WALK FOR WARMTH

SUNDAY 22 NOV 2026
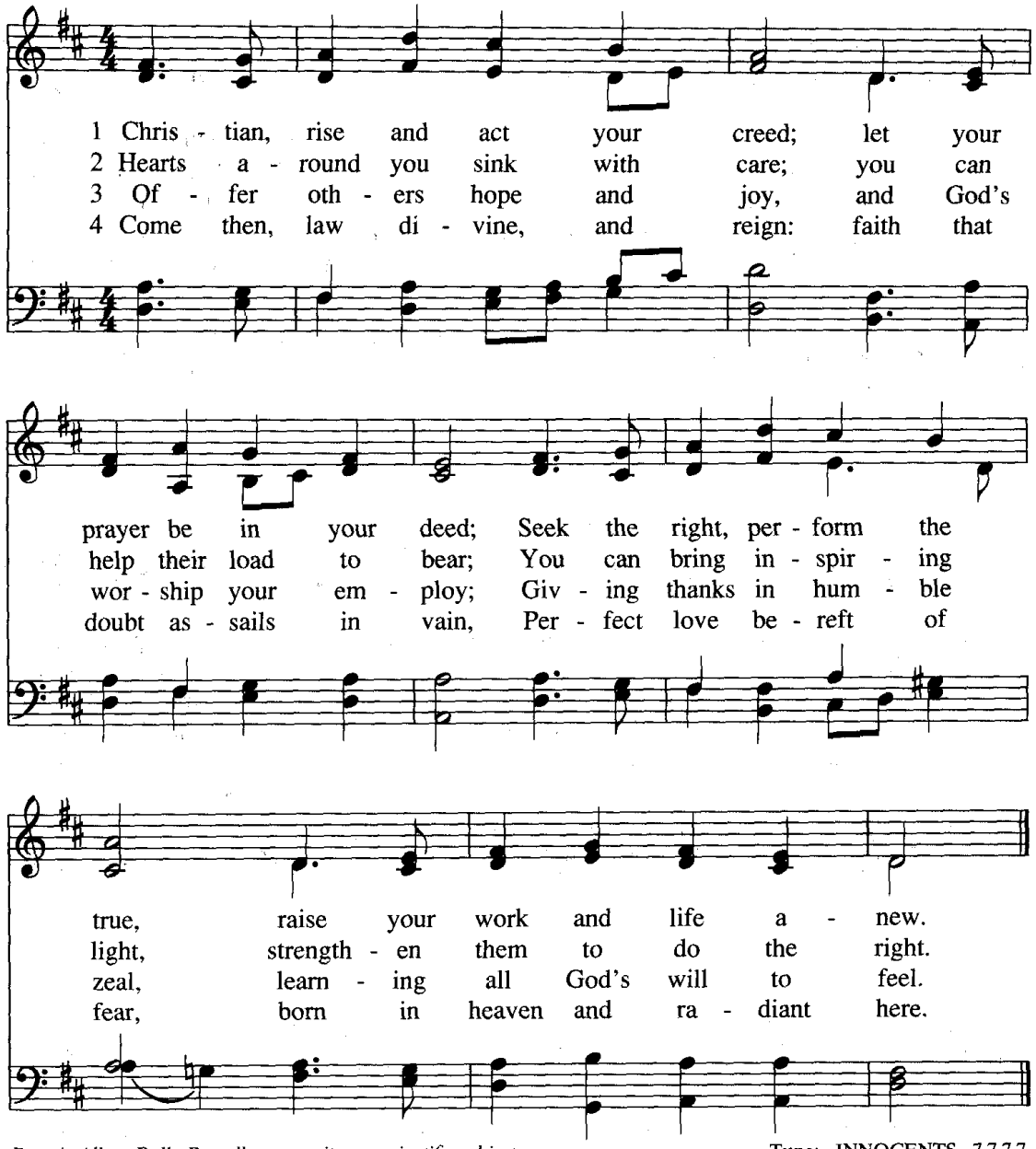
TEMPLE BNAI ISRAEL
383 JACKSON ST,
WILLIMANTIC, CT

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION: 12:30
INTERFAITH SERVICE: 1:30
WALK BEGINS: 2:15

waimct.org/walk | 860-456-7270x105 | officevolunteer@waimct.org

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed 537

Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.



Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal *(1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.*

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
The Parish Choir, *1850*