

MCCC SEASON OF SABBATICAL
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Alecia Evans-Hayes



July 23, 2023
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Mantua Center Christian Church
Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Arms
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor – Rev. Chad Delaney

Pastor's Contact: 330-569-4926

pastormccc@gmail.com

Website: www.mantuacentercc.org

Wifi pw: mccc1827



If you decide to attend in person, please note the following:

- **Please use your discretion with masking, handshakes, and hugs, as each person feels comfortable.** Thank you for your patience, prayers, and feedback.
- This worship service is being live streamed. If you have any concern about you or your child being live on YouTube, please stay behind the 5th row of pews.
- The nursery has been cleaned and sanitized if needed for your children. There are also coloring sheets at the entrance for the children.
- **After the Children's Moment, all kids through 4th grade are welcome to attend Sunday School class which will run through the end of worship.**
- We have resumed the passing of communion. If you prefer, we have sealed "personal" communion cups available at the entrance.
- Offering baskets will be passed around the sanctuary at the start of the "Invitation to Generosity" during worship. (You may also *Give Online* at: mantuacentercc.org).

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 23, 2023

PRELUDE

“I’m Rejoicing Night and Day”
[by D. M. Shanks]

Sarah Park

WELCOME

Rev. Nancy Humes

COMMISSIONING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Steve Hurd

Leader: Within the Body of Christ there are many members, and while each member plays a unique role in the body, all are equally significant to the health of the entire body.

(I Corinthians 12)

People: Today we celebrate and commission the delegates from our part of the Body of Christ as they soon will participate in the whole body gathering known as the General Assembly of the Christian Church.

Leader: We give thanks for this rich opportunity for these individuals to grow in their faith, to be inspired to greater service, to enjoy new and longtime friends and build deeper community, to learn new skills and share their own gifts, and to embody the local church to the General and global church.

People: May what you experience be seeds for new growth back here in your home church, may what you learn be leaven in this community for new and renewed mission and ministry. (Matt. 13:23 & Gal. 5:9)

Leader: We entrust those from our congregation with both representing the unique commitments and perspectives of our local church as well as free them to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and their own conscience as they thoughtfully and faithfully consider business items brought to the Assembly.

People: We promise to trust these delegates in whatever they say and however they vote, knowing that the God of renewed presence and deeper insight has been with them through the discussion and debate, the prayer and pondering in which they will engage.

Leader: May your travels to and from the General Assembly be safe and may your faith in God be stronger than ever before.

People: Blessings on your journey!

Prayer (unison): Gracious God, bless these delegates to the General Assembly of the Christian Church. May they experience your power and presence on their journey as well as at the Assembly. And may your entire Church be made stronger because of their participation in this gathering. Bless those of us who remain here that we, too, might be transformed and renewed for ministry in a new day. Amen.

~ **Invitation for Mission Updates**

*Ministry Leaders and congregants are welcome to come forward to the mic,
to give a mission update or share ways for people to
get involved in missions and ministries.*

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:7-10

Rev. Nancy Humes

***RESPONSE**

“Weave”

#495

*Weave, weave, weave us together, Weave us together, in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together, weave us together, together in love.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Nancy Humes

One: Return to the Lord your God,

All: For God is gracious.

One: Confess to the Lord your God,

All: For God is merciful.

One: Repent to the Lord your God,

All: For God is slow to anger.

One: Praise the Lord your God,

All: For God abounds in steadfast love.

One: Worship the Lord your God.

All: Together, let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN**

“O, Worship the King”

#17, v. 1-2, 4

1 O worship the King all glorious above,
and gratefully sing God's wonderful love,
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2 How great is your might! How steadfast your grace!
Your robe is the light; your canopy, space;
your chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
in majesty riding the wings of the storm.

4 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Invitation

Offertory/Music

“When we Walk with the Lord”

[by W. H. Doane]

Rev. Nancy Humes

Sarah Park

***Response**

“Give Thanks”

#528

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. Give Thanks!
Offering Prayer **Rev. Nancy Humes**

Special Music **“Beautiful Things”** **Ryan & Karli Lind**
[by Gungor]

CHILDREN’S MOMENT **Kathleen Lewarchick**

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER **Rev. Nancy Humes**

HOLY COMMUNION

Meditation **Rev. Nancy Humes**
Special Music **“Let Us Break Bread Together”** **Ryan Lind**
Prayer **Steve Hurd**
Words of Institution **Steve Hurd**
Music **“Jesus Comes With Power to Gladden”** **Sarah Park**
[by W. J. Kirkpatrick]

SCRIPTURE **Matthew 5:13, Mark 9:50, Luke 14:34-35**
Rev. Dr. Alecia Evans-Hayes

SERMON **“Why Salt”**
Rev. Dr. Alecia Evans-Hayes

***CLOSING HYMN** **“Seek Ye First”** **#354, v. 1-3**

- 1** Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia
- 2** Ask and it shall be given unto you Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you Allelu, Alleluia
- 3** We shall not live by bread alone, But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, Alleluia

BENEDICTION **Rev. Nancy Humes**

POSTLUDE **“My Soul Today is Thirsting for Living Streams”** **Sarah Park**
[by H. L. Gilmour]

*Thank you for joining us at
Mantua Center Christian Church!*

Announcements :

- * **Today is the “4th for the 4C’s!** Items needed this month are: COFFEE, DISH SOAP, & CANNED FRUIT. Monetary donations are also welcome! Let’s fill up the kids bags & help our community!
- * Feel free to join us following worship in the Campbell Room for our **Sunday Class** “Seekers,” led by Rev. Nancy Humes. Today, you also have the option to join in “Life 101” in the Education wing upstairs. All are welcome in either of these groups!
- * **Today we will be hosting an Ice Cream Social immediately following worship.** This event is in honor of Rev. Alicia, and to say “Thank You” for filling in for Pastor Chad while he is on Sabbatical. Her last day with us will be Sunday, July 30th. Please come and enjoy some ice cream and fellowship with Rev. Alicia! **A special “SHOUT OUT” to the Worship Team for organizing this event!!**
- * Our community **Loaves & Fishes meal will be Thursday, July 27th from 5-6:30pm.** We will be serving pizza, salad, and a variety of desserts! Anyone is welcome to attend. Donations are gratefully accepted, but NOT required!
- * Don’t forget we will have our **MCCC Potluck on Sunday, July 30th,** following worship. Please stay and don’t forget to bring a dish to pass. What a great reason to enjoy some fellowship time with our Church Family! **And . . . many thanks our MCCC Elder’s for handling the organizing of this event!**
- * Attention all **knitters & crocheters!** Since there are 5 Mondays this month, we will have an EXTRA yarning day to work on projects, on Monday July 31st! Meet us at the Hilltop Church from 1:30-3:00pm. Bring a friend if you wish! Questions? Contact Kathy Meier at: 330-840-8944. Anyone working on a needlework project is also welcome!
- * Don’t forget that **Pam Auble is looking for nature photos** (specifically, photos of rivers, mountains, sunsets, night skies, will be great. However, your garden flowers, forest path or backyard will be appreciated too! Pam will use these photos to share in worship on August 20th. Please email your pictures to auble4@windstream.net. And do so quickly, **by August 8th.** Thanks!
- * Just a reminder that **Jan Green is looking for volunteers to join her Dulcimer & Psaltery group!** They do have a couple instruments to loan out for you to try. There is an attachment to this email with more information, and there will be extra copies of this flyer in the entrance of the church. Please check it out!

SPECIAL NOTE:

Rev. Nancy Humes and Katie Baird will be participating as representatives of MCCC and will vote on our behalf as voting delegates. They would like to share with you two links with information regarding issues they will be voting upon. Please look at this information, and if you would like your voice to be heard, please contact Nancy (330) 592-2855, or Katie (330) 285-8537. The General Assembly will be held July 29th – August 1st in Louisville, Kentucky.

Here is the link to all the business for this year's General Assembly.

<https://ga.disciples.org/business/> You must scroll down a bit until you get to the spreadsheet with all the business items in red. Click on the name of the business item and the text for it will come up.

Also, here is a link to a brief video that was created to explain the main changes in GA-2343 Amendments to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). <https://youtu.be/utHFvH-p1f8> I thought it was very helpful.