



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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER + APRIL 18, 2021

### **Greeting**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### **Call to Healing and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from the First Letter of John, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is." When in this past week have we failed to know ourselves as a child of God? When have we failed to recognize one another as children of God?

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in to your glory through your Spirit. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

### **Sacred Scripture Acts 3:1-20**

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them:

“Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

## Reflection

### Call to Prayer Hear Us O Lord

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares." A small number '9' is positioned to the left of the first note. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. Below it, the lyrics are: "Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

### Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

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 lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Offering Love Divine

As we share this musical offering, I invite you to hold your financial offering in your hand, envisioning the ministry and mission it will enable in the days ahead. At the conclusion of worship, please place your offering in the mail. (First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC. Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250) or go to [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info) and click on the green box to make an online gift via credit card or bank transfer.

Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven to earth come down;  
Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
5 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy pro - mised rest;  
sud - den - ly re - turn and ne - ver, nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.  
9 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
take a - way our love of sin - ning; al - pha and o - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
13 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
end of faith as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
till we case our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## Fed for the Journey The Great Thanksgiving

*We share food and drink at Jesus' Welcome Table. All are invited; there is room enough for everyone!*

## Benediction Living Resurrection

May peace be with you, Beloved of God.