



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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER + APRIL 25, 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, "We know love by this, that Christ laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

When in this past week have we not allowed God's love to abide within us?

When have we ignored a sister or brother in need?

When have failed to love in truth and action?

Shepherd of all,  
by laying down your life for your flock  
you reveal your love for all.  
Lead us from the place of death  
to the place of abundant life,  
that guided by your care for us,  
we may rightly offer our lives  
in love for you and our neighbors. Amen.

### **Gospel John 10:11-18**

[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

## Offering Psalm 23: My Shepherd Will Supply

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.



My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.  
When I walk through the shade of death, your pres - ence is my stay;  
The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

8  
In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.

16  
You bring my wan - d'ring spi - rit back when I for - sake your ways,  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

24  
and lead me for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

## Sacred Scripture Acts 4:5-12

The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

## 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 flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note. The lyrics are written below the staff. A small number '9' is positioned at the start of the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values, ending with a double bar line. Its lyrics are also written below the staff.

## Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

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.

## **Benediction** Living Resurrection

May God bless you and keep you,  
may God's face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
may God look upon you with kindness  
and grant you peace. Amen.

May peace be with you, Beloved of God.