

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

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER + MAY 2, 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, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

When in this past week have we not been loving?

When have failed to recognize God in one another?

Holy God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy. Amen.

Sacred Scripture Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to

speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reflection

Call to Prayer Hear Us O Lord

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.

Offering Wade in the Water

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 and click on the green box to make an online gift via credit card or bank transfer.

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chi - dren,

5 wade in the wa - ter, God's a-going to trou-ble the wa - ter. O wa - ter.

10 See that host all dressed in white, God's a-going to trou-ble the wa - ter, the
See that band all dressed in red, looks
Look o - ver yon - der what do I see? the
If you don't be-lieve I've been re - deemed, just

14 lead - der looks like the Is - ra - el - ite - , God's a-going to trou-ble the wa - ter. D.C.
like the band that Mo - ses led ,
Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me - ,
fol - low me down to Jor - dan's stream - ,

Fed for the Journey The Great Thanksgiving

Christ is with us here,
so let us open up our hearts to God and one another,
giving thanks to the Spirit with joy.

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.