



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

ASCENSION SUNDAY + MAY 16, 2021

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

Hear these words the Letter to the Ephesians, "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power."

When in this past week have we not given thanks?

When have failed to pray?

When were the eyes of our hearts enlightened?

Precious love,
your ascended Son promised the gift of holy power.
Send your Spirit of revelation and wisdom,
that in the blessed freedom of hope,
we may witness to the grace of forgiveness
and sing songs of joy with the peoples of earth
to the One who makes us one body. Amen.

Sacred Scripture Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days

from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are also written below this staff.

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 Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

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.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion city of our God; See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love, Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear God, whose word can not be broken, from thee for a blest abode. well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove. for a glory and a covering, showing forth that God is near! On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose? Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage? Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day, With salvation's walls surround-ed, thou mayest smile at all thy foes. Grace, which like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age. safe they feed up on the manna which God gives them when they pray."

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.