



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

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All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME + JULY 11, 2021

Welcome to Our Guests!

*We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church...
if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!*

Welcome and Greeting

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Traditional

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three - in - One; as it
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was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

Gospel

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of [the disciples' ministry], for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Beisig

Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

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Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For a strengthening of our discipleship: that we may hear God's invitation to bring forth the reign of God in our lives, our work, and our relationships

For a spirit of hospitality: that God's generosity to us may be extended as we welcome the stranger and reach out to those who are in need

For wisdom: that God will guide us as we oppose injustices and encounter opposition or rejection for living the Gospel

For a deepening of gratitude: that we may recognize and appreciate all the gifts that God has given us and honor God by utilizing them fully for God's glory

For greater trust: that we may rely upon God's providence and care for us as we journey through life and recognize that with Christ, we lack for nothing

For our companions on the faith journey: that we may be faithful witnesses with our family, friends, co-workers, and fellow parishioners to the work of God in one another's lives and

For a deeper appreciation of the earth: that we may protect the topsoil and preserve it for the common good of feeding all the human family

For all political leaders: that God will help them to understand the greatest needs of those whom they serve and work to promote the common good

For all who sick: that God's healing love will restore those who are ill, strengthen those recovering from surgery, and stop the spread of the Coronavirus

For all who are suffering: that God will assist those recovering from storms, protect those who live amidst violence, guide those who are seeking employment, and comfort all who are grieving

For a deeper appreciation of the earth: that we may protect the topsoil and preserve it for the common good of feeding all the human family

For all political leaders: that God will help them to understand the greatest needs of those whom they serve and work to promote the common good

For all who have died, particularly those in the building collapse and by acts of violence: that God will bring them to the fullness of life and welcome them to the eternal banquet

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is most comfortable for you.

The following are offered as examples...

**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/trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,**

Sunday, July 18

10:15am Worship with Holy Communion on the lawn