



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

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All People of the Church, Ministers + Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor  
Erik Haeger, Organist + Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**Ash Wednesday + March 2, 2022**

**Welcome to Our Guests!**

*We're delighted you have joined us for worship. Please let us know of any way we might assist you.*

**Centering**

*Bless the Lord My Soul*

Taize

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Let us pray.

**God of wandering and wilderness, may we be awakened to your presence on our journey of Lent, that, faithful to your leading, we might arrive at the joy of Easter. It is in the Spirit's power and Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn**

*From Ashes to the Living Font*

ST FLAVIAN

From ash - es to the liv - ing font your church must jour - ney Lord. Bap -  
Through fast - ing, prayer, and cha - it - y, your voice speaks deep with - in, re -  
For thirst - ing hearts let wat - ers flow, our faint - ing souls re - vive; and  
From ash - es to the liv - ing font your church must jour - ney still, through  
tised in grace, in grace re - newed, by your most ho - ly word.  
turn - ing us to ways of truth, and turn - ing us from sin.  
at the well your wa - ters give our ev - er - last - ing life.  
cross and tomb to Eas - ter joy, in Spi - rit - fire ful - filled.

**Confessing and Receiving Grace**

Lent is a time of deepening reflection and renewal, an opportunity to make new commitments in faith. We prepare for the journey by setting aside the burdens that would weigh us down. Let us turn to God and confess our sin.

For the times when we are too rushed to care,  
when we are too tired to listen,  
when we don't really listen,  
when we act from motives other than love,  
**God forgive us and grant us new life.**

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others,  
and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,  
**God forgive us and grant us new life.**

For our failings in community,  
our lack of understanding,  
**God forgive us and grant us new life.**

For our lack of forgiveness, openness, and sensitivity,  
**God forgive us and grant us new life.**

For forgetting our connection to earth,  
and the self-interest that strangles compassion for all creation.  
**God forgive us and grant us new life.**

*Silence*

**Merciful God, who causes new growth to sprout up from the burning embers of a forest, grant that as we are marked with this ash we might be reminded of the death and resurrection of Jesus through whom new life springs up within us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

*Live in Charity*

CH523

*You are invited to come forward, receive ashes  
on your forehead or on your hand, then return to your seat.*

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-11

### **The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Prayer of Jesus**

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We have opened them up to God and one another.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of grace and mercy, we give you thanks that you have created us out of earth and ashes and breathed into us the breath of life.

**We praise you for the life and ministry of Jesus who taught us of your love,  
witnessed to your justice, and who walks before us in death and resurrection.**

We bless you for your Holy Spirit, who calls us to follow the way of Jesus and who draws us together in this meal of grape and grain, and who feeds us to act with mercy and peace.

**For all these gifts and for gifts too numerous to name, we thank you, we praise you, and we bless you. Amen.**

*As we pray the Prayer of Jesus,  
you are invited to use whatever language is most meaningful to you.  
The following is offered as a suggestion:*

**Our Father, 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, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

**Hymn**

*Eat this Bread*

**CH414**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We thank you God for your presence here at this table and for your companionship on all our journeys. Bless us on our way through Lent, to the cross, the empty tomb, and beyond. We pray in the name and spirit of Jesus. Amen.**

**Hymn**

*If You Will Trust in God to Guide You*

**CH565**

### **Benediction**

### **Sharing Christ's Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*The Peace may be shared with handshake, embrace, or a non-contact gesture.  
Please respect the wishes of those with whom you exchange a greeting.*