



# 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

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT + MARCH 13, 2022

### 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!*

### Playing the Chimes and Prelude

#### Centering in Silence and Song

#### Bless the Lord

#### Taize

5

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life

### Greeting and Welcome

#### Opening Hymn

#### Come My Way

#### Herbert/Vaughan Williams

5

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath, such a  
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast, such a  
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move, such a

truth as ends all strife, such a life as kill - eth death.  
feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.  
love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.

### Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from Paul's Letter to the Church in Phillip: Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

When in this past week have we failed to follow the example of our ancestors in faith?

When have we failed to set our minds on the things of God?

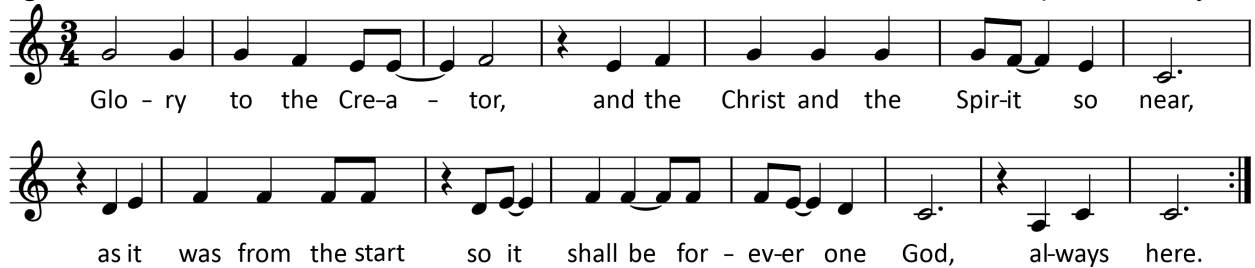
*Silence*

**Hope beyond all human hope, you promise light and salvation in the midst of shadow and despair, and promise redemption to a world that will not listen. Gather us to yourself in tenderness, open our ears to listen to your word, and teach us to live faithfully as people confident of the fulfillment of your promises. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Song of Praise**

### *Gloria*

Christopher Grundy



### **Hebrew Scripture**

Genesis 15:1-5

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

### **Psalter**

Psalm 27

CH736

### **Gospel**

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the

prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

## **Reflection**

## **Practicing our Faith**

### **Hymn**

*This is My Song*

CH722

### **Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus**

For the Church: that we may listen with both our minds and hearts to God's beloved Son and be transformed by his words

For members of Congress: that God will give them insight and courage to explore new ways to work together to effectively address the needs of all people

For refugees from Ukraine: that God will guide them to places of safety, help them to find welcome and new homes, and open the hearts of many to provide the resources that they need

For peace: that God will bring an end to the violence in Ukraine, protect the innocent from harm, open channels for food and medicine, and help peace negotiations to begin

For a spirit of gratitude: that we may look beyond our daily routines and like Abraham see God's blessings that are as numerous as the stars of the sky

For courage: that we may join Jesus in journeying toward Jerusalem as we live our vocations and use our resources to continue the mission of Jesus

For a deepening of hope: that even though negative and doubting messages abound in our society, we may be confident that God will never abandon us

For all who are on a journey, whether physical or spiritual: that they may know God's presence each step along the way and rely upon God's light and truth to guide their steps

For students who are on spring break: that God will watch over them, preserve them from harm, and renew their spirits

For all who are sick: that God's healing love will restore those recovering from Covid, cancer, or surgery, give good sleep to those who are anxious, and strength to those who are experiencing the weaknesses of advancing age

For all who are grieving: that God will wipe away their tears and give them courage and hope for tomorrow

*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,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Musical Offering**

*Thy Word*

Michael Smith/Amy Grant; arr. Jack Schraeder

*Offerings may be placed in passed plates, mailed to:*

*First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC.*

*Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250, or given online at [www.myfcc.info](http://www.myfcc.info)*

## **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be low; Praise  
God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy God, we give you thanks for the diverse gifts you have bestowed upon us. Bless us with your Spirit that they may be used to proclaim your good news in word and deed. Amen.**

**Benediction****The Week Ahead...**

Sunday, March 13	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, March 14	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
Tuesday, March 15	6pm Adult Education on Zoom 7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook
Wednesday, March 16	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 17	9:30am Quilting Group in Fellowship Hall 7pm Music Ministry Rehearsal
Sunday, March 20	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

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Our current list for our **Church World Service Health Kits** is:

- 35 hand towels
- 5 washcloths
- 15 toothbrushes
- 28 nail clippers
- 25 bars of soap
- 180 bandaids
- 30 combs

Items may be placed in the basket in front of the Welcome Table.