



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

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

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All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT + APRIL 3, 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*

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**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

CH6

**Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from Paul's Letter to the Church in Philippi: I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

When in this past week have we failed to be like Christ?

*Silence*

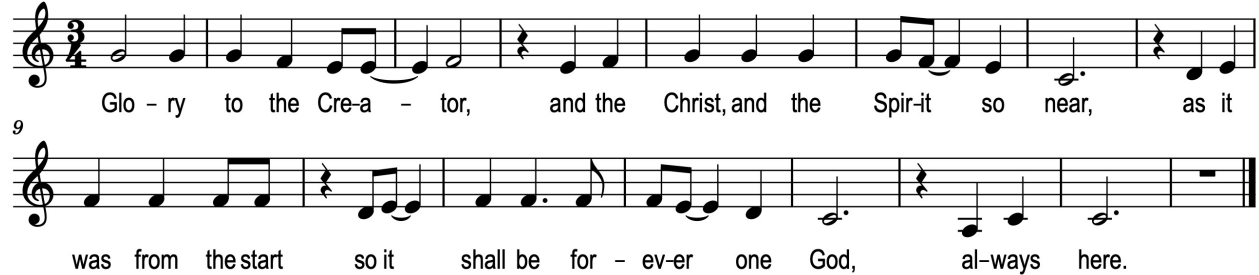
**Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness and your grace waters the desert. Help us to recognize your hand working miracles beyond our imagining. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new**

thing you are doing, so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all, and its presence in Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Song of Praise

### Gloria

Christopher Grundy



Glo - ry to the Cre-a - tor, and the Christ, and the Spir-it so near, as it  
9  
was from the start so it shall be for - ev-er one God, al-ways here.

### Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

### Psalter

Psalms 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the water in the desert.**

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

### Gospel

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given

to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

## Reflection

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change.

Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course.

Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations

Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick (especially).

Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism.

Do a new thing in death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all who have attained the prize of their heavenly call.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus who taught us to call upon you, saying...

*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

*Child of God*

Mark Miller

*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  
5 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.**

### The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Open up your hearts.

**We open them up to God and one another.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## Musical Response

*Santo Santo Santo*

Traditional Argentine

San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

5  
co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!  
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

*All are welcome at Christ's table; we offer non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread.*

## Hymn

*Cuando Los Pobres*

CH662

## Benediction

### The Week Ahead...

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 3    | 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle   |
| Monday, April 4    | 10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center                   |
| Tuesday, April 5   | 6pm Adult Education on Zoom<br>7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook |
| Wednesday, April 6 | 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall  |
| Thursday, April 7  | 9:30am Sewing and Service in Fellowship Hall<br>7pm Music Ministry Rehearsal |
| Sunday, April 10   | 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle   |

**Sewing and Service** meets this Thursday at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall to assemble Church World Service Health Kits. All are welcome to participate!

**Tickets for the April 29 Lasagna Dinner are available from Donna for \$15.** There will be a 5pm and 6:30pm seating.

Save the Date: A **Spring Work Day** is taking place Saturday, April 30