



**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

**Easter Sunday + April 17 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.*

*Children will be worshipping with us through the entire service this morning.*

*We at First Church believe the noises and wiggles of children are signs of the Spirit's movement among us and of a church alive with God's presence. If, however, your child wishes to be somewhere other than in the Worship Service, there are rocking chairs in the entrance space at the back of the church where you may rock and play.*

**Gathering**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
5 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Beloved of God,  
on this most holy day,  
on which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life,  
the Church calls upon its members,  
to come together...  
to listen for God's word,  
to celebrate Christ's sacraments,  
to be filled with the Holy Spirit that we might empowered to enact justice and compassion in  
our lives and in our world  
And, in so doing, witness to the sure hope of Jesus' triumph over violence and death and of  
the promise of fullness of life with him in God.

Let us recall how, on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb,  
taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,  
but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this,  
suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and  
bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living  
among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

## Opening Prayer

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Let us pray.

**Resurrecting God, you conquered death and opened the gates of life everlasting. In the power of the Holy Spirit, raise us with Christ that we, too, may proclaim healing and peace to the nations. Amen**

## Opening Hymn

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

CH216

## Greeting and Welcome

### Confessing our Brokenness

Hear these words from Paul to the Colossians: So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

When in the past week have we neglected to seek the things of God?  
When have we not revealed Christ in our own lives?

*Silence*

Friends, hear the Good News:

**In Christ we are forgiven. Amen. Alleluia!**

### Christian Scripture

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Gospel**

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

**Reflection****Renewing our Baptismal Promises**

Baptism is the sacrament through which we testify to the power of life and hope over death and despair. In baptism we are reminded that God's truest name for us is "Beloved." In baptism we enter into the community of Jesus Christ, the church. In baptism we celebrate the Holy Spirit's call to ministry, to be the hands and heart and voice of Christ in the world, ordained to his ministry of justice and compassion.

Today we invite you to renew your own promises or the promises that were made on your behalf in baptism: to live in the freedom of Christ, with Jesus as the center of your spiritual life, resisting the power of evil of the world with God's help.

This is not a re-baptism, but a recommitment to the meaning of our baptism, a chance to invite the Spirit to "stir to flame in us the gifts we have received."

For those not baptized, or for those whose faith is not centered on Christ, or whose consciences cannot accept the content of the faith, please enter into this ritual as you are able, bring to it your own hopes for a good and meaningful life in community, and do what has integrity for you, perhaps participating as a celebration of renewing creation, of life-giving water and the growth toward love and wholeness that each spring promises.

And so I ask you, Beloved Ones, Do you wish to renew your own promises to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

**I promise, with the help of God.**

Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit come, make this sprinkling with water a sign of the deepening life we have in you -- the life of faith and friendship in Christ and with each other. As this water rains down upon us, refresh us by your love and help us every day to drink from the deep wells of God's grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*All are sprinkled with water*

**Hymn**

*We Call Ourselves Disciples*

CH357

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

For the Church: that we may radiate the light of Christ, be strong in faith, confident in hope, and abounding with love and service for God and neighbor

For greater stewardship of God's creation: that we may work to use earth's resources prudently and preserve them for the good of future generations

For nations in turmoil: that God will break the cycles of violence and discord, end acts of revenge, protect the innocent, and raise leaders who will establish peace and justice in areas of conflict

For peace: that the Risen Lord will give each of us peace of mind and heart, relief from stress and pressure, and renew our spirits so that we may live life fully each day

For all the human family: that Christ's victory over death may bring hope and a new beginning to all who suffer from war and violence, are burdened by poverty, confronted by prejudice, or live in fear. We pray in particular for the people of Ukraine.

For all who have fled homes because of violence, fear, or natural disasters: that God will guide them to safety, give them hope, and touch the hearts of many to welcome and support them

For all who are burdened by sickness, disease, or chronic illness: that the healing Spirit of the risen Christ may bring light and wholeness to them

All this we ask in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying...

*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/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, for ever. Amen.**

**Musical Offering**

*Halle Halle Halle*

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*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**

Let us pray.

**Generous God, we bring you these gifts which you have given to us:  
this bread, this cup, this money. We bring, too, our very lives that,  
through your Holy Spirit, we may become the body of Christ, risen and  
serving the world you so love. Amen.**

**Musical Response**

*Alleluia! Love is Alive*

Al - le - lu - ia! Love is a - live; con - quered the grave and de - feat  
 ed the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Love is a - live! The  
 Son has a - ris - en for all; Your peo - ple sing al - le - lu - ia!

## The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Open up 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 our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks Holy One for you are Wholly Love,  
 you are beyond all knowledge,  
 above perfect description.

Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,  
 you are creative and self-giving,  
 generously moving  
 in all the near and distant corners of the universe.  
 Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights  
 when the powers of death have done their worst,  
 your love has never deserted us.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;  
 You do not abandon us in our brokenness but  
 sent prophets and teachers throughout the ages  
 to lead us into the way of salvation.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,  
 risen to life, eternal as your love.

With the women at the tomb,  
we raise the strain of gladness.  
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!  
The day of resurrection has come,  
scattering fear and gloom.

***Alleluia! Love is Alive***  
***Conquered the grave and defeated the night!***  
***Alleluia! Love is Alive***  
***The Son has arisen for all... your people sing "Alleluia!"***

It is Jesus who joins us together  
as a broken but hopeful community.  
In this meal we remember his promises,  
and the price he paid for who he was,  
what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died,  
he took a loaf of bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,

Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also after supper,  
Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks,  
gave it to them and said:

"Drink this, all of you:  
This is the cup of the new covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all in forgiveness.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

We remember his life of love, his friendship,  
his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again.

***Alleluia! Love is Alive***  
***Conquered the grave and defeated the night!***

***Alleluia! Love is Alive***

***The Son has arisen for all... your people sing "Alleluia!"***

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,  
we call on you to transform these familiar things,  
as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape,  
the farmer and the harvest,  
the seed and the sower.  
So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,  
we may taste and see your goodness.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, God most holy,  
now and forever.

***Alleluia! Love is Alive***

***Conquered the grave and defeated the night!***

***Alleluia! Love is Alive***

***The Son has arisen for all... your people sing "Alleluia!"***

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

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

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Life-giving God,  
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection  
you send light to transform shadows,  
water to give new life,  
and the bread of life to nourish your people.  
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection,  
living his love and justice in the world,  
as ask this through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Hymn**

*Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna*

CH222

**Benediction**



**Sharing Christ's Peace**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The peace of the Risen 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.*

**Postlude**

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Announcements