



**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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER + MAY 8, 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

Greeting and Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

My Shepherd You Supply My Need

CH80

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Revelation of John: After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

In what ways have we failed to be a community of and for every nation, tribe, people, and language?

When have we failed to offer praise and thanksgiving?

God of comfort and compassion, you lead us to the water of life and table of your bounty. May we who have received the tender love of our Good Shepherd be strengthened by your grace to care for your flock. Amen.

Song of Praise*Gloria*

Christopher Grundy

**Christian Scripture**

Acts 9:6-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Psalter

Psalm 23

CH734 (response 2)

Gospel

John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Reflection

Musical Call to Prayer

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

9 Lord, li-sten to your chi - ldren pray - ing. Lord, send your Spir - it in this place.

Lord, lis - ten to your chi - ldren pray - ing. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For the Church: that we may recognize the voice of the Lord in our lives, distinguish it from the many other sounds which demand our time and attention, and follow the invitations of Jesus to a fuller life

For all who have shepherded us, particularly mothers and those who have been like a mother to us: that God will bless and strengthen them and inspire us to greater love by their witness of love and concern

For healing of the divisions in the human family: that God will heal the wounds of racism and ethnic discrimination so that there may be one crowd of people from every land offering praise and worship to God with a common voice

For all mothers and those who have been like a mother to us: that God will bless and strengthen them and inspire us to greater love by their witness of love and concern

For students, as they complete the semester: that God will give them strength, guide them as they study for exams and write papers, and help them to recall what they have learned

For inspiration: that the Holy Spirit will guide the administration and Congress as they seek ways to resolve the issues around immigration and that Gospel may open new ways to help all who must flee their homes

For greater care of earth's resources: that God will move hearts to greater awareness of the fragility of the air and freshwater so that they may be preserved for our children and grandchildren

For peacemakers: that the Holy Spirit will inspire all who are working to end violent conflicts, open avenues for the safe moments of the vulnerable, and help everyone to recognize the dignity of every human life

We pray for human rights: that the Spirit will empower us to work for the civil, economic, and reproductive rights of all.

For all who have died, particularly our mothers: that they may experience the love of the Good Shepherd and join the great multitude of holy ones rejoicing in God's presence

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.**

Offering Hymn

Mothering God

Julie of Norwich

Offerings may be placed in passed plates, mailed to:

First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC.

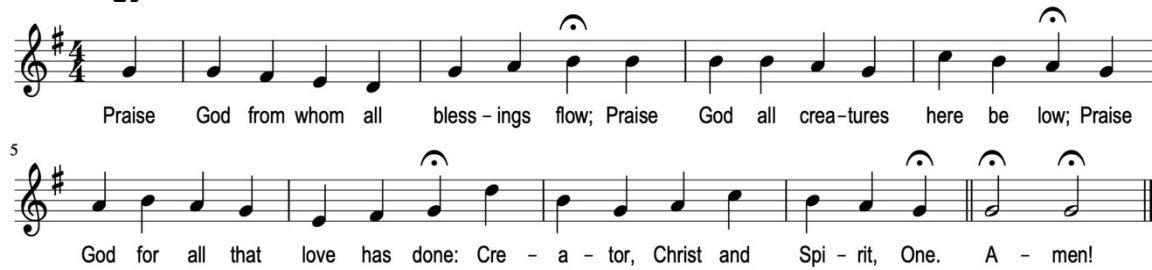
Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250, or given online at www.myfcc.info

Moth-er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright morn - ing
Moth-er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing me your
Moth-er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of pa - tience

7
of - this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry breath, you
food - of light. Grain of life, and grape of love, your
hold - me close, so that in faith I root and grow un -

13
are my rain, my wind, - my sun.
ver - y bod - y un - for my peace.
til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Doxology



Prayer of Dedication

Lord Jesus, you break bread and we recognize you; you are the fire that burns within us. Use us and these gifts to light the world. Amen.

Hymn

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

CH558

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ in risen indeed! Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, May 8

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

Monday, May 9

10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center

Wednesday, May 11

1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

5pm First Church Hosts Community Supper at First Baptist, Willimantic

Thursday, May 12

5:30pm Governing Board

Sunday, May 15

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle