



**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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER + MAY 15, 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

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

CH517

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Acts of the Apostles: At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

When in this past week have we allowed prejudice to hinder God's work?

Silence

**Alpha and Omega, First and Last, glory outshining all the lights of
heaven: pour out upon us your Spirit of faithful love and abundant**

compassion, so that we may rejoice in the splendor of your works while we wait in expectation for the new heaven and the new earth you promise when Christ shall come again. Amen.

Song of Praise

Gloria

Christopher Grundy

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

Christian Scripture

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Psalter

Psalms 148: Let the Whole Creation Cry

CH21

Gospel

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

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 Spi-rit 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 be known as disciples of Jesus by the love and care that we show one another

For the grace of insight: that we may recognize all that God is doing in our lives, our faith community, and the world around us so that we may cooperate in bringing forth the reign of God in our time and place

For the grace to love as God has loved us: that we may have the courage to lay down our lives in service of one another and for those who are most in need

For freedom of mind and heart: that God will free us from old attachments and help us follow the movement of the Spirit into new relationships and new forms of service

For the renewal of community life: that God will guide us in deepening our relationships, encouraging one another along life's journey, and caring for one another as we face hardships

For those who strive to manifest a New Heavens and a New Earth: that God will inspire those working to end injustice and poverty, assist the elderly and homebound, and be a source of hope for all who are suffering

For all who are caught in human trafficking: that God will free them from bondage, help someone to recognize their need, and restore them to loved ones

For all who have experienced abuse: that God will heal them, give them new courage, and renew their vision for a future filled with God's promises

For all who have been displaced by war, famine, or natural disasters: that God will protect them from harm, touch the hearts of many to reach out and assist them, and lead them to places of safety

For all who are graduating this spring: that they will find good ways to use their gifts and skills so that they may contribute to society and find meaning and satisfaction in their work

For good stewardship of natural resources: that we may honor God's work of creation through caring for the earth, water, and air that we share so that all may enjoy and share in its benefits

For peace: that God will turn minds and hearts from violence, open new ways for dialogue about wounds and grievances, and help all who are burdened with anger to find healthy ways to express it

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

The Call

Ralph Vaughn Williams

Howard Drescher and Erik Haeger

*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

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

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

Though I May Speak

CH526

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 15 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle

Monday, May 16 10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
7pm Take Note Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 18 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 19 9:30 Quilting Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 22 10:15am Worship and Worship Circle