



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

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

860.423.9008 + www.myfcc.info

All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS + MAY 29, 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 Song

Let Me Be Your Light

Christopher Grundy

O let me be your light to the nations what-ever o-thers may have done
with un-kind words with a gun let me rise up like the sun
and shine your love all the way to the ends of the earth.

Greeting and Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

CH233

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

In our Gospel reading this morning, Jesus tells his disciples that they are called to give witness to God's love and action in the world by their lives.

When in this past week have we failed to witness to God's love and compassion?

**Precious love, the ascended Christ promised the gift of holy power.
Send your Spirit of revelation and wisdom we may witness to the grace
of forgiveness and sing songs of joy to the One who makes us one
body. 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

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Psalter

Psalms 97: Sing Praise to God

CH6

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Then Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Reflection

Musical Call to Prayer

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

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

Rise

Maya Sherman

Maya Sherman and Tyler Sherman

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 bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures 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.

Sabbatical Blessing

Joe, we wish God's blessings upon you and your family as you begin your sabbatical time of renewal. This is a time for remembering and renewal.

As you journey, we ask God to guide you in all you do.

God's peace be with you as I leave to walk in new places, to renew my spirit, my ministry, my life.

God live with you while we are away from one another.

God's blessings on you while I am gone from you, during your time of renewal and sabbatical.

This is our time to renew our spirits, and engage in ministries and the life of our church family.

I am grateful for my ministry with you over these years and I thank you for the gift of this renewal time you have given to me.

May you experience the gift of spiritual growth on your journey.

I pray this gift for you also.

God grant you a trusting heart as you plant your feet and heart in new places. We send you forth with our blessing.

As a symbol of our mutual time of renewal, I remove my stole and place it across the baptismal font until I return. May it be a symbol of my presence with you in prayer and spirit, even during our absence from one another.

We will pray for you while you are away, and that you return renewed and energized for ministry.

And I will pray for you. With God's blessing, I know that you will grow also. This is a time of remembering and renewal, seeking the future God has for our ministries and our lives.

God bless you on your journey!

God bless you on your journey as well!

Spirit of God, touch our hearts. Renew Joe for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study in issues of justice and resistance, the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine of ministry, and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace Joe with your presence on his journey. Be with us in our Mutual Time of Renewal! Amen.

Hymn

We Will Keep a Place for You

We will keep a place for you where - ev-er you may go. We'll sus-tain this home of faith and love you've come to know.

5
Go in peace! Bring hope to hearts that yearn! We will keep a place for you 'til you re - turn.

Benediction

May the amazing grace of Jesus,
the extravagant love of God,
and the intimate friendship of the Spirit,
be with us all as we go forth in joy and peace. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!