



**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 TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS + FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

Immortal Invisible God Only Wise

CH66

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Book of Exodus: The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

When in this past week have we failed to acknowledge God's glory?
When have we been impatient and unable to wait?

Silence

O God of the covenant, the cloud of your splendor and the fire of your love revealed Jesus as the Christ on the mountain heights. Transform our lives in his image, write your law of love on our hearts, and make us prophets of your glory, that we may lead others into your presence. Amen.

Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Every where I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Epistle

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Psalter

Psalms 99

CH751

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Reflection

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou- bles, and our cares.

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Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

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.

Offerings may be placed in the collection 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
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God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

Prayer of Dedication

We present you our gifts, O God, symbols of our hopes and yearnings. Receive them and transform them by the mysterious power of your love that your dreams and ours may be one. Amen

Invitation to the Observance of Lent

Blessing of the Ashes and of Those Who Will Wear Them

Imposition of Ashes

Hymn

We Rise Again from Ashes

Tom Conry

We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the good we've failed to do. We
We of - fer you our fail - ures, we of - fer you a - tempts, the
Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let heal - ing come to pain, though
5 Thanks be to Cre - a - tor in whose im - age we are made,
rise a - gain from ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If
gifts not ful - ly giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our
spring has turned to win - ter and sun - shine turned to rain. The
9 thanks be to Christ Je - sus who taught us of God's reign,
all our world is ash - es, then must our lives be true. An
stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our vi - sions wid - er view. An
rain we'll use for grow - ing and cre - ate the world a - new from an
13 thanks be to the Spi - rit who cre - ates the world a - gain from an
of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.

Benediction