



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

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

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All the Members, Ministers

Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor + Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT + FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Gathering Song

Come and Seek

Steven Warner

5

Come and seek! Your eyes will be o - pened! Come and sing! Your voice will be heard! Come and live in the light, the mar - ve - lous joy of God!

Centering in the Spirit

At the Start

Rev. Sarah Speed

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

Forty Days and Forty Nights

CH179

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray. Amen.

We belong to God.

We belong to God.

We are held in God's love.

We are held in God's love

We are made new. Amen.

We are made new. Amen.

Song of Praise

Glory Be to God Creator

Richard K Carlson

Glo-ry be to God, Cre - a - tor, glo-ry be to God, the Son, glo-ry
 was in the be - gin - ning, it is now and so shall be in a

5
 be to God, the Spi - rit, known as Three, yet God the One. As it
 world with-out an end - ing, glo-ry through e - ter - ni - ty.

1. 2.

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalter

Psalms 32

CH739

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Poetry Prayer

Who Will You Listen to?

Rev. Sarah Speed

Reflection

Rev. Joseph Blotz

Hymn

Who Will You Listen to?

Anna Strickland

A rush - ing flood the hate in news we of - ten see con -
 The voi - ces from of past that ech - o through our minds like
 So - ci - e - ty de - mands we al - ways strive fore more, ac -

6
 ceals God's king - dom in a great co - co - pho - ny. Who will we lit - ten
 noi - sy ghosthaunt and har - ass with words un - kind. Who will we lis - ten
 cum - u - lat - ing wealth and land and leave the poor. Who will we lis - ten

11
 to? The cha - os all a - round? or God's dream of a world made new where love - a - bounds?
 to? Lies that bind and a - base? or God who counters words un - true with words of grace?
 to? The tempter's jea - lousy? or God's pro - vis - ion and pur - suit of e - qui - ty?

Affirmation of Faith

In a world full of noise,
we believe that God is speaking.
In a world full of chaos,
we believe that God is singing.
In a world full of temptation,
we believe that God is healing.
Church, who will you listen to?
We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.
Church, what will you listen for?
**We will listen for water in the desert, for the wind of the Spirit,
for the laughter of children,
for the sound of open doors,
and for God's voice, who calls us beloved.**
Amen.

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

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

Musical Offering

Maya Sherman and Tyler Sherman

*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
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

Prayer of Dedication

Extravagant God, you lavish us with love and acceptance and ask that we love and accept others. In offering these gifts, we express our commitment to your way. May they bring hope and shalom to this congregation and to your world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days

CH180

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, February 26	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday February 27	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center 7pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, February 28	7pm Adult Education: Signs and Wonders on Zoom
Wednesday, March 1	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 2	9:30am Sewing and Service 12:15pm Contemplative Communion
Sunday, March 5	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle