



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 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT + MARCH 5, 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!

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This?

CH200

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand. You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true. You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you. Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. 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

5

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 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.

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalter

Psalms 121

CH760

Gospel

John 3:1-17

Poetry Prayer

How Do We Begin Again?

Rev. Sarah Speed

Reflection

Hymn

Begin Again

Anna Strickland



In the deep night of the soul, rich in ques-tions, yearning for
 In the sun-set of our life, a-fter years of joy and strife,
 Ev-ery mo-ment, ev-ery hour Spir-it gifts us with the power

5
 life that mat-ters far be-yond pick-et fen-ces and front lawns.
 as we pon-der le-ga-cy, won-der-ing what we will leave.
 to be-gin our life a-new what then will we choose to do?

9
 When we tire of life mun-dane we can still be-gin a-gain.
 When the lights are grow-ing dim we can still be-gin a-gain.
 Close a chap-ter, lift the pen, to once more be-gin a-gain.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,
 who welcomes our questions,
 who invites us to begin again.
 We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,
 a deeper faith,
 a more compassionate existence.
 We believe that all of our beginnings
 should return us to this foundation,
 and that no matter how many times we lose our way,
 God always welcomes us home. 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.

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.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.
And also with you.
 Open up your hearts.
We open them up to God and one another.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Musical Response

Santo Santo Santo

Traditional Argentine

San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My
 5 co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - to eres, Se - nor!
 heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at Christ's table; we offer non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread.

Hymn

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Benediction

As you leave this place,
 may God bless you with seeking.
 Seek out the hungry.
 Seek the weary.
 Seek the good in every person you pass. Seek out the hopeful.
 Seek the faithful.
 Seek God in each of us.
 As you seek and as you wonder,
 may you find what you are looking for. In the name of our loving God,
 who is always seeking us,
 go now in peace. Amen.

The peace of Christ is with you always.
And also with you.

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, March 5	10:15 am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, March 6	10 am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center 7 pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, March 7	7 pm Adult Education: Signs and Wonders on Zoom
Wednesday, March 8	1 pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall First Church Hosts the Community Supper at First Baptist Willimantic
Thursday, March 9	12:15 pm Contemplative Communion 5:30 pm Governing Board 7 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 12	10:15 am Worship and Worship Circle