



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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT + MARCH 19, 2023

Gathering Song

Come and Seek

Steven Warner

Come and seek! Your eyes will be o - pened! Come and sing! Your voice will be
5
heard! Come and live in the light, the mar - ve - lous joy of God!

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

We Come With Questions

Anna Strickland

We come with ques - tions as - sum - ing that there will be an - swers.
Here is the mys - t'ry we claim as the fol - lowers of Je - sus:
God help us live in - to mys - t'ry be yond com - re - hen - sion.
7
Set - ting the world in an or - der that o - beys our gram - mar.
Christ has died, Christ is raised, Christ dai - ly comes to re - deem us.
Qui - et our minds al - ways clam - or - ing for some di - rec - tion.

13



We want to know where Spi - rit's ri - ver will flow.
 Grace free, not earned, whe - ther or not we de - serve.
 Give us your peace with all that we can't per - ceive.

18



Frus - trat - ed by her me - an ders.
 God works be - yond rules and boun - d'ries.
 Hold - ing us with - in the ten - sion.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Who here has sinned?

We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

Have you sinned?

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need. I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalter

Psalm 23

CH747

Gospel

John 9:1-41

Poetry Prayer

Jesus in the Psych Ward

Rev. Sarah Speed

Reflection

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

CH595

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a merciful God,
a God who does not keep score,
a God who wants good for us.

We believe in a creative God,
a God who would heal with mud,
a God capable of seeing what we cannot.

We believe in a saving God,
a God who heals,
a God who greets our questions with patience,
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.

What wondrous love is this. Amen.

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.

9
 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

We Walk by Faith

Karen Marroli

*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 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

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

Amazing Grace

CH546

Benediction