



**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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT + MARCH 26, 2023

Gathering Song

Come and Seek

Steven Warner

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

Precious Lord Take My Hand

CH628

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Jesus of Nazareth, I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.
I forget that you, too, have wept.
I forget that you, too, have lost.
I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,
have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.
Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.
Forgive me for all the times I create distance,
imagining that you could never feel what I feel.
Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones
to be a sea of space between us.
Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart.
Bring these bones back to life.
Bring me closer to you.
With gratitude I 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

1. 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.

2.

Hebrew Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalter

Psalms 130

CH762

Gospel

John 11:1-45

Poetry Prayer

The Answer is Yes

Rev. Sarah Speed

Reflection

Hymn

Can These Bones Live?

Anna Strickland

When the past is dead and bur - ied, life - less in the ba - reen ground,
 When our hearts are bowed in so - rrow and the grief is new - ly wrought
 When our spi - rits feel so bro - ken, wrapped in li - nens and en - tombed,

10

what good can e - merge from ash es? Where can an - y life be found?
 cry - ing, "If you'd on - ly been here" Weep - ing for what we have lost.
 with - out hope and with - out feel - ing, as the storm clouds 'round us loom.

18

Breathe in deep the li - ving Sp - rit, life is grow - ing all a - round.
 Res - ur - rect our hearts and spi - rits Liv - ing God whom we ex - alt.
 Hear the words of life from Je - sus, "Come out, be un - bound" and bloom.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God loves us—

God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.

We believe that God does not give up on us—

breathing new life into tired bones.

We believe that God returns to us—

always seeking us when we are lost.

We believe that God holds hope for us—

so we hold onto hope as well.

We believe, help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, 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

Do Not Fear to Hope

Rory Cooney

*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

5 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be low; Praise
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

Let Hope and Sorrow Now Unite

CH639

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 26	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle 3pm Consonare rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Monday March 27	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center 7pm Take Note rehearsal in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, March 28	7pm Adult Education: Signs and Wonders on Zoom
Wednesday, March 29	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 30	9:30am Quilting Group in Fellowship Hall 12:15pm Contemplative Communion 7pm Choir Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, April 1	10am Special Olympics in Fellowship Hall 2pm Well Association Meeting in Fellowship Hall 3pm Consonare in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Holy Week Worship...

Palm Sunday, April 2	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Maundy Thursday, April 6	7pm Maundy Thursday Worship
Good Friday, April 7	12noon Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Easter Sunday, April 2	10:15am Worship