



**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

PALM SUNDAY + APRIL 2, 2023

Gathering Song

Come and Seek

Steven Warner

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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

SUNDAY

Hymn

All Glory Laud and Honor

CH 192

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who can go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

"Say to Daughter Zion,

'See, your king comes to you,

gentle and riding on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us.

You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Creator God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, "Hosanna!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

With hope in our hearts we pray to you, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.

Musical Offering

Hosanna!

Craig Courtney

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. 2.

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.

Gospel MONDAY
Matthew 21:12-17

Poetry Prayer *Where Are You Headed?* Rev. Sarah Speed

Gospel TUESDAY
Matthew 21:18-22

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.

Gospel WEDNESDAY
Matthew 26:6-13

Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil

Hymn *Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill* CH 506

Gospel Matthew 26:14-16

Offering Hymn *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* CH 211

*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.

THURSDAY

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.

FRIDAY

Matthew 27:27-56

Gospel

Hymn

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

CH202

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, April 2	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday April 3	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center 7pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, April 4	10:30am First Church leads Worship at MCNR 7pm Adult Education: Signs and Wonders on Zoom
Wednesday, April 5	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 6	9:30am Sewing and Service in Fellowship Hall 12:15pm Contemplative Communion 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday, April 7	12pm Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Sunday, April 9	10:15am Resurrection Worship and Worship Circle