



**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 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER + APRIL 23, 2023**

**Chimes and Prelude**

**Welcome and Greeting**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

CH230

**Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from the First Letter of Peter: If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

When in this past week have we failed love one another deeply from the heart?

When have we found it difficult to be obedient to the truth?

*Silence*

**Lord of the gathering feast, you walk with us on the shadowed road;  
burn in our hearts with scripture's open flame; unveil our darkened eyes  
as bread is torn and shared and from the broken fragments bless a  
people for yourself; through Jesus Christ, the host of the world.**

## 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.

## Christian Scripture

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

## Psalter

Psalms 116

CH756

## Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those

who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Reflection

### Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



### Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For those whose hearts are on fire with your love, that they may be empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love.

For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected.

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence.

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit.

For the faith forming ministries of this church and for Olivia our Worship Circle coordinator.  
For those who participate in Worship Circle and adult education; guide and inspire learners  
of every age and ability.

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give  
us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life  
with you.

*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.**

## Offering Hymn

## On the Journey to Emmaus

Marty Haugen

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](http://www.myfcc.info)

On the jour - ney to Em - ma - us with our hearts cold as stone the  
And our hearts burned with - in us as he talked on the way, how  
And that eve - ning at ta - ble as he blessed and broke bread, we  
On our jour - ney to Em - ma - us, in our stor - ies and feast, with

5

One who would save us had left us a - lone. Then a  
all that was pro - mised was ours on that day. So we  
saw it was Je - sis a - ris'n from the dead; though he  
Je - sus we claim that the great - est is least: and his

9

stran - ger walks w with us and to our sur - prise he  
begged him "Stay with us and grant us your world." We  
van - ised be - fore us we knew he was near, the  
word burn with - in us, "Let none be ig nored! Who

13

o - pens our stor - ies and he o - pens our eyes.  
wel - comed the stran - ger and we wel - comed the Lord.  
life in our dy - ing and the hope in our fear.  
wel - comes the stran - ger shall wel - come the Lord!"

## 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

Gracious God, through the resurrection of Jesus, you have shown us the power of life and love. May our offerings reflect the grace we have known and symbolize lives committed to your service. Amen.

**Benediction and Blessing of Holy Bread**

**Lord Jesus... bread of angels... bread of life... bless this bread as you once blessed the five loaves in the wilderness so that all who eat it may be awakened to your presence in the world and set on fire to work that all hunger and injustice cease. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The peace of Christ is with you always!

**And also with you!**

**The Week Ahead...**

Sunday, April 23	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, April 23	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center 7-9pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, April 25	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 26	12:15pm Contemplative Communion
Sunday, April 30	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle Second Hour: Supporting Independent College Students with Alex Katz