



**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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER + MAY 14, 2023

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn

Take My Life

CH609

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from 1 Peter 3:13: Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? Even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

When in this past week have we struggled to speak for righteousness?

When have we not listened to our good conscious?

Silence

May God forgive you, Christ befriend you, and the Spirit renew and change your life.

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

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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 17:22-31

Psalter

Psalm 66

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you your name,

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Come and see what God has done: God is awesome in deeds among mortals. God turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in God who rules forever by might

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard, who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads;

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed God's steadfast love from me. Let all the earth make a joyful noise to God.

Gospel

John 14:15-21

Reflection

Rev. Pat Felleter

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.

Offering Hymn

When Love is Found

CH499

*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

Loving and leading God, we are grateful for a faith in which practicing generosity is an indication of wisdom, making peace a mark of power, and serving others is a sign of freedom. We express our faith through the way that we live and through the offerings that we give. Receive us and our gifts. We pray in Jesus' name.

Hymn

Christians We Have Met to Worship

CH277

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

The Week Ahead...

Monday, May 15	7-9pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, May 16	3:15pm First Church leads Worship at MCNR
Wednesday, May 17	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, May 18	12:15pm Contemplative Communion
Friday, May 19	10am-2pm Plant and Book Sale Setup
Saturday, May 20	9am-12noon Plant and Book Sale 11am DeBella Committal Service (offsite)
Sunday, May 21	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle