



**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 TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS + FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Welcome to Our Guests!

*We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church...
if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!*

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

Sing of God Made Manifest

CH176

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Second Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth: For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of shadows," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

When in this past week has the glory of God not shone in our hearts with loving words and just acts?

Silence

Let us pray.

Holy God, you have revealed the glory of your love in Jesus Christ, and have given us a share in your Spirit. May we who listen to Christ follow faithfully, and, in the dark places where you send us, reveal the light of your gospel. Amen.

Musical Response

More Light

Christopher Grundy

9 More - light, more - truth is breaking from your Word.

More - light, more - truth, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us hear what needs to be heard.

Hebrew Scripture

2 Kings 2:1-12

From the Hebrew Bible we hear the story of the taking up of the prophet Elijah into heaven and the passing on of his power to Elisha. The narrative illustrates the great favor Elijah found in the eyes of the Lord as he is carried away in a chariot of fire. Elisha is first in despair and rends his clothing in mourning, yet realizes he himself has been chosen to offer continued prophetic vision to the people.

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalter

Psalm 50

ELLACOMBE

The Migh - ty One, the Lord of Hosts, speaks and the world o - beys;
 God comes, not with a si - lent form, but ri - ding on the winds;
 The heav'ns de - clare your ju - stice, Lord, as end - less as the sky;

5
 from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.
 be - fore God's face, the ra - ging storm its blasts of thun - der sends.
 a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.

9
 The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from Zi - on's height shines forth;
 All hail the Judge in bold a - rray, who weighs our righ - teous - ness,
 Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks as ho - nor to your might;

13
 and stars a - cross the fir - ma - ment so bri - ghtly beam their worth.
 a - gainst all sin, and with whose grace deigns faith - ful hearts to bless.
 re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

Gospel

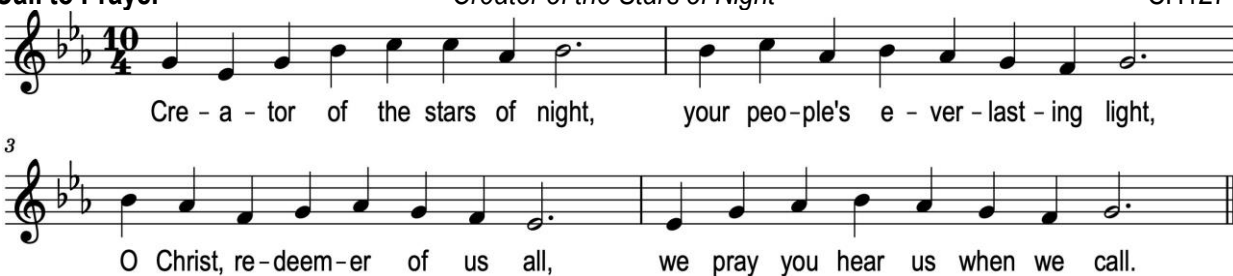
Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reflection

Call to Prayer *Creator of the Stars of Night* CH127



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo-ple's e - ver - last - ing light,
O Christ, re-deem-er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world.

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation.

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world.

For all who suffer this day that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace.

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living.

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/trespases,
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.**

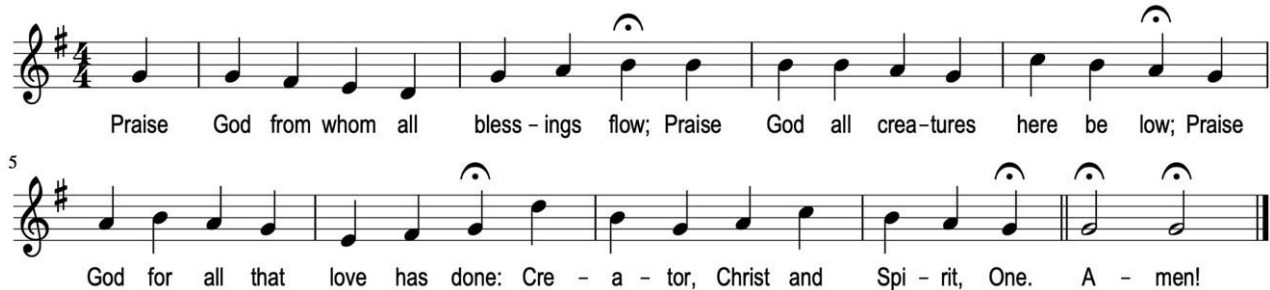
Musical Offering

Transform Us

CH182

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



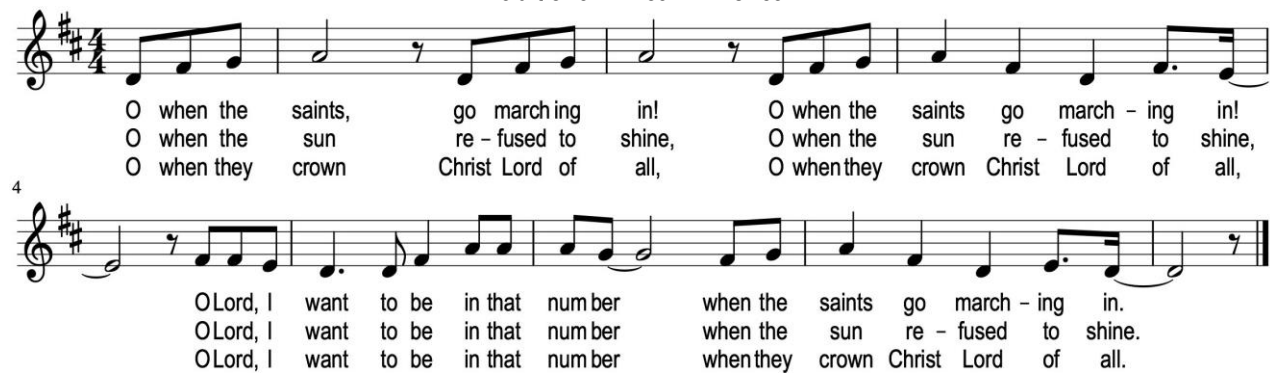
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise
5
God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

Prayer of Dedication

God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

O When the Saints Go Marching In Traditional African American



O when the saints, go march - ing in! O when the saints go march - ing in!
O when the sun re - fused to shine, O when the sun re - fused to shine,
O when they crown Christ Lord of all, O when they crown Christ Lord of all,
4
O Lord, I want to be in that num ber when the saints go march - ing in.
O Lord, I want to be in that num ber when the sun re - fused to shine.
O Lord, I want to be in that num ber when they crown Christ Lord of all.

Benediction

Believe me, I know
how tempting it is
to remain inside this blessing,
to linger where everything
is dazzling
and clear.

We could build walls
around this blessing,
put a roof over it.
We could bring in
a table, chairs,
have the most amazing meals.
We could make a home.
We could stay.

But this blessing
is built for leaving.
This blessing
is made for coming down
the mountain.
This blessing
wants to be in motion,
to travel with you
as you return
to level ground.

It will seem strange
how quiet this blessing becomes
when it returns to earth.
It is not shy.
It is not afraid.

It simply knows
how to bide its time,
to watch and wait,
to discern and pray

until the moment comes
when it will reveal
everything it knows,
when it will shine forth
with all that it has seen,
when it will dazzle
with the unforgettable light
you have carried
all this way.

—Jan Richardson

Dazzling - A Blessing for Transfiguration Sunday
from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, February 11	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, February 12	10am First Church leads Worship at St Joseph Living Center
Tuesday, February 13	5:30pm Governing Board
Wednesday, February 14	12:15pm Contemplative Ash Wednesday Communion 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, February 15	12:15pm Contemplative Communion 7pm Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 18	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle