



**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 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER + APRIL 7, 2024

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Hymn

He Lives!

CH226

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

When in this past week have hung onto the old yeast of malice and evil? When have we neglected to celebrate?

Silence

Light of the world, shine upon us and disperse the clouds of our selfishness, that we may reflect the power of the resurrection in our life together. Amen.

Song of Praise

Glory to God

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-gin-ning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.

now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-49

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. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." and when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



9



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

Now the Green Blade Rises

CH230

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

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We have opened 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at Christ's table; we offer non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

CH231

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, April 7	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Tuesday, April 9	5:30pm Governing Board on Zoom
Wednesday, April 10	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 11	10am First Church leads Worship at St. Joe's 12:15pm Contemplative Communion
Sunday, April 14	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle