



**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 ASCENSION OF JESUS + MAY 12, 2024**

**Chimes and Prelude**

**Welcome and Greeting**

**Hymn**

*Sing Praise to God*

CH6

**Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer**

Hear these words from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Source of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of the glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And God has put all things under Christ's feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

When in this past week have the "eyes of your heart" been closed?

*Silence*

**Precious love, your ascended Son promised the gift of holy power. Send your Spirit of revelation and wisdom, that in the blessed freedom of hope, we may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing songs of joy with the people of earth to the One who makes us one body. Amen.**

**Song of Praise**

*Glory to God*

Paul Vasile

## Christian Scripture

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

## Psalter

Psalm 93

WINCHESTER NEW

$\text{♩} = 110$

The Lord is clad in ma-jes-ty, a-dorned in glo-ri-ous a-rray; the  
The pi-lars of cre-a-tion stand un-sha-ken in theri age-less flight; the  
Your test-i-mo-nies, Lord, are fast; in ho-li-ness your house se-secure; from

6  
throne which earth's wide bounds or-dain still wears the crown of God to-day.  
ra-ging floods their wrath dis-pel and meek-ly wane be-fore God's might.  
age to age shall your de-crees in right-our-ness and truth en-dure.

## Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

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." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## 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.

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**

Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your

Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures.

Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life.

Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need. Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love.

Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother.

Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints .

*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***I Love to Tell the Story*

CH480

*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)*

## 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

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.

## Hymn

*Alleluia Sing to Jesus*

CH233

## Benediction

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### The Week Ahead...

Sunday, May 12	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Monday, May 13	10am First Church Leads Worship at St Joe's 7-9pm Take Note in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, May 14	5:30pm Governing Board on Zoom
Wednesday, May 15	1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, May 16	9:30am-5pm Quilt Group in Fellowship Hall 12:15pm Contemplative Communion
Sunday, May 19	10:15am Pentecost Worship and Worship Circle. Wear Red!