



**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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER + APRIL 28, 2024

Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia

Hymn

In the Garden

CH227

Confessing our Brokenness and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the First Letter of John: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

When in this past week have we failed to love as God has loved us?

Silence

Loving God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy. 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

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

8 **1.** now and ev - er shall be, A - men **2.** World with-out men!

Christian Scripture

Acts 8:26-40

Psalter

Psalms 22: 25-31

CH733

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Reflection

Celebrating Resurrection in the Baptism of Lorraine Foster

Beloved ones, let us celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed, and commissioned:

we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God;

we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ and one another in Christian community;

we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice,

and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

Lorraine, do you desire be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus?

I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of the Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show God's love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

I do, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in Christian faith, to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ by celebrating Christ's presence and by furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

I do, with the help of God.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Lorraine as she lives and grows in Christ?

We do, by the grace of God.

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you, God,
for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word.
Before the world had shape and form,
your Spirit moved over the waters.

Out of the waters of the deep,
you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.
In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood,
and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.
In the time of Moses, your people Israel
passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom
and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.
In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ,
who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan,
became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well,
washed the feet of the disciples,
and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water.

Create new life in Lorraine baptized this day
that she may rise in Christ.
Glory to you, eternal God,
the one who was, and is, and shall always be,
even to the end of the age. Amen.

As Lorraine is immersed in water:

**Lorraine, you are baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
One God, Mother of us all. Amen.**

As hands are extended to Lorraine in blessing:

**Lorraine, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, for you are a child of God, a disciple of Jesus, a
member of the Church. Amen.**

**Into the family of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving. We are members of the
Body of Christ. We are inheritors of God's promise. We are the people the Spirit sends to
serve. In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

Renewing our Baptismal Promises

And so I ask you, Beloved Ones, do you wish to renew your own promises to be Christ's disciple...
If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

I promise, with the help of God.

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

H.W.Baker

Cheryl Chase and Laurel Thurman

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.

Hymn

Let There Be Peace on Earth

CH677

Benediction