



**LOVE FIRST
SERVE FIRST**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF MONTCLAIR & VERONA**



**WE WELCOME YOU ALL TO OUR SUNDAY SERVICE
AND APPRECIATE YOUR VIRTUAL PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION.**

March 6, 2022 + First Sunday in Lent + 10:00 AM

We belong to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Rev. John Schol, Bishop

Rev. William M. Williams, District Superintendent

Kenneth Rapp, Music Director

Dr. Michael Stewart, Lay Leader

Bolded text - said in unison by all

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS – The Faith We Sing

** If able, please stand where indicated.*

CALLED TO PRAISE AND PRAY

Prelude

Alexa Majana

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

People: **As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.**

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

People: **As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

All: **As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days(vs 1,3,5)*

UMH 269

1.Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.

3.As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.

5.Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Lenten Candle Liturgy

Leader: We have come together this morning for renewal—in worship and as a community of faith. We’ve greeted one another, laughed and hugged. But now the time of reflection and stillness is upon us. It is the first Sunday in Lent—the season for journeys of the heart. Close your eyes. Be still. Listen. We are entering a holy time. The Lenten candles have been lit, but over the next six weeks the light will slowly fade into darkness. For we are retelling the story of Jesus’ betrayal and suffering and death.

We do this not to be morbid, but because in the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection, God is revealed—in the amazing transformation of death into life, in endings transformed into beginnings, and in dead-ends that become a source for new possibilities.

(A candle is extinguished)

All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Forty days alone, a wilderness of thoughts, tempting and inviting thoughts, which could so easily have distracted you from your task, your mission, your vision. Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned to all that had to be done, despite a time constraint that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless. We too live in stressful times. Demands are made of our time, that leave so little for the important things of life. We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives, by every call to go this way or that, to turn stone to bread leap from Mountains, and do all that would keep us from the truth. We listen to the voices of this world, and ignore the one who endured all this and so much more, and emerged triumphant, that we might not have to suffer so. Forgive us, Father, when we get distracted from our task. Forgive us those times when we try to be all things to all men, and fail to be anything to anyone.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: O Lord, we have failed to bring you the first of all our blessings. We have been slow to come to the place you have chosen as a dwelling for your name. We have been intoxicated by a hunger for power, possessions, and protection. We have been dehydrated by injustice. We are misguided and deluded. As former aliens in this land of milk and honey, we have continued the cycle of discrimination and the exploitation of new aliens and strangers. Forgive us, we pray. Refresh us for justice and compassion. Make us sober for sacrificial service. Guide us again through your Word and your will and your way. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession...)

Words of Assurance

Pastor: We worship a forgiving God, whose mercy is never ending, whose heart abounds in steadfast love.

All: **Because of the love of Jesus Christ, nothing can separate us from the love of God. Amen.**

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

Please share your joys and concerns in any of the following ways:

- Use a microphone to share it at the church
- ---Share it in the church's WhatsApp group
- Write it as a comment on the Facebook/YouTube Livestream.

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Message

Dr. Leslie Lester

Responsive Hymn

O Lord, Hear My Prayer(x2)

TFWS 2200

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

CALLED TO THE WORD

* Apostle Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Illumination

Live in Charity (x2)

TFWS 2179

Live in charity and steadfast love, Live in charity; God will dwell with you.
Ubi caritas et amor, Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Bobbette Kelly

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us. When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord

your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Sermon

"In the Wilderness"

Pastor ChangYong Shin

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Service of Holy Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: "Drink from this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Thanksgiving (in unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALLED TO SHARE

Offering

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below:
Praise him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

CALLED TO WITNESS IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn** *It Is Well with My Soul (vs. 1,3,4)* UMH 377

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

[Refrain]

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul.

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

*Sending Forth

***Circle of Blessing** *Shalom to You* UMH 666

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude

Alexa Majana

Next Sunday Worship Team (March 13, 2022)

Preacher: ChangYong Shin Liturgist: Sarah Kezengawa Reader: Vidal Guzman
Ushers: Hilda & Avrille Acolyte: Sarah Nwafor Children's Message: Leslie Lester
Counters: Robert & Julian Music Director: Kenneth Rapp