



**LOVE FIRST.
SERVE FIRST.**

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



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

April 4, 2021 + Easter Sunday + 10:00 AM

Bolded text - said in unison by all
* If able, please stand where indicated.

UMH - *United Methodist Hymnal*

TFWS – *The Faith We Sing*

CALLED TO PRAISE AND PRAY

Prelude

"Welcome Happy Morning!" – Arthur Sullivan

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate.

People: Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen.

Leader: Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing.

People: Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty.

Leader: Christ is Risen indeed from the dead, the first of the sleepers,

People: Glory and power are his forever and ever. Amen!

***Opening Hymn**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

UMH 158

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Opening Prayer

Leader: God of hope, in the midst of death, you call forth life. When all hope seemed gone, you raised Jesus from the grave. We come before you today, longing for your life-giving presence. God of new life, raise us up with all your people. Lift us from the tombs of our despair and doubt, that we may rejoice in your power over death. God of joy, fill our hearts with alleluias as we sing your praises. Glory to God. Amen

Prayer of Confession

People: God of life and love, like Peter, we gaze into the empty tomb and see only death. Like Mary, we stand weeping over loss. We so often feel hopeless. We don't recognize any possibility for joy. Surprise us with your work in the world. May we dry our tears, as we dance into new life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Words of Assurance

Leader: The risen Jesus offers forgiveness of sins through his name.

People: Rejoice, Jesus gives us new life. Amen!

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

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

- Share it in the church's WhatsApp group (First UMC of Montclair).
- Write it as a comment on the wall of the Facebook Livestream.

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Message

Dr. Leslie Lester

Responsive Hymn

What a Mighty God We Serve

TFWS 2021

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve,

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!

CALLED TO THE WORD

*Psalter Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Leader: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

**People: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

Leader: the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

People: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Leader: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

**People: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

Leader: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

People: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn of Illumination

Bless the Lord

TFWS 2013

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.

New Testament Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

Dr. Michael Stewart

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

*Gospel Lesson

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do

not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Special Music

Nicole Peaks

Sermon

"The Great Equalizer"

Rev. Myungim Kim

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EASTER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, Almighty God, 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.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

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.

By your great mercy we have been born anew

to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead

and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people,

declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,

who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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

Breaking the Bread

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**

Because He Lives

UMH 364

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus; he came to love, heal, and forgive.

He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, All fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.

***Sending Forth**

Rev. Myungim Kim

***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

"Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" – Henry Balcombe

Please continue to pray for all those affected by the pandemic.