



**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.**

November 15, 2020 + Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost + 10:00 AM

**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**

*"Shall We Gather At The River" - Robert Lowry*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The day of the Lord is at hand; be silent before our God.

**All: God brings judgment against oppressors; against all who misuse earth's resources.**

Leader: The great day of God is near; it brings distress to those alienated from God.

**All: God breaks the weapons of war, and strips away the advantages of the comfortable.**

Leader: God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: We gather in faith and hope and love, to encourage one another and build new life.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*We Gather Together*

UMH 131

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!
3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

**Opening Prayer**

Pastor: God of judgment, the whole earth bows in fear before you. Who will deliver us from your wrath? Before your majesty, the mountains quake; before your anger, we are filled with terror. We, who have taken your love for granted, are stunned by the judgment that calls us to account. We are shaken, yet strangely reassured by God who wants only the best for us. Meet us here to turn us from our sinful ways. We pray in the name of the Savior. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: Ruler of all time and space, we are afraid. We have hidden the gifts you entrust to us. We have wasted the resources of the earth for our self-indulgence. We live in darkness rather than in the light, ignoring your purposes and our needy people. O God, save us from our blind pursuit of the wrong goals and our careless disregard of your guidance. Please bring us to the day of salvation, that we might be the encouragement of Christ. Amen.**

(Pausing for Siler Prayer...)

Leader: God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ, who died for us. Whether we wake or sleep, it is God's will for us that we find life in Jesus Christ, that we encourage one another and build one another up. Invest well the talents God has entrusted to you. By God's grace, live as children of the day, who make your vows to God and perform them. Surely God will bless your caring ministries with the affirmation, "Well done, good and trustworthy

servant!"

**All: Glory to God. 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.
- Send a text to Pastor Kim

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Children's Message**

Dr. Leslie Lester

#### **Responsive Hymn**

Jesus, Name above All Names

TFWS 2071

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

### **CALLED TO THE WORD**

#### **Psalter Reading**

Psalm 121

UMH 844

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence, does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved; the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;

**The Lord is your shade on your right hand.**

The sun shall not smite you by day,

**nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil, and will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.**

#### **Hymn of Illumination**

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

TFWS 2214

Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I can not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

#### **Epistle Lesson**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

David Winful

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others

do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**\*Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 25:14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Sermon**

**“Made to Work”**

Rev. Myungim Kim

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

**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**

*Marching to Zion*

UMH 733

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord  
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

**[Refrain]**

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets  
before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields,  
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.
4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,  
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.

**\*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**

*"The Solid Rock" - William Bradbury*

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