



**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.**

March 14, 2021 + Fourth Sunday in Lent + 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

"Lonesome Valley" – Arr: Robert Thygerson

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God is good.

People: **All the time.**

Leader: And all the time,

People: God is good.

Leader: Let all God's people cry out in joy;

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Come!

People: Let us worship the Lord of our salvation!

***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: Gracious God, so often we have missed your presence because we are looking for you clothed in a particular way. Let this time of worship be an encounter with you that will enable us to behold you in all the people we meet and all the situations we greet. You are from everlasting to everlasting, so we are confident that you are here; help us to be aware of your holy presence. O Lord, enrich this act of worship with the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: It is on our journey to the cross and the tomb that you fill us with the riches of your mercy, Steadfast Love! You do so, not because of anything we have done, but because of the compassion which flows from your heart wounded by our failings. As we open our lives to receive your forgiveness, may we turn to the Light which brings us life, following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, every step of the way. (Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Words of Assurance

Leader: How much does God love us? Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us, not to condemn us, but to save us.

People: Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved. Thanks be 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.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Children's Message

Dr. Leslie Lester

Responsive Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy

TFWS 2007

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord.

CALLED TO THE WORD

*Psalter Reading

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

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

People: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble.

Leader: and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

People: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

Leader: they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

People: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

Leader: he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

People: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

Leader: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Hymn of Illumination

Shout to the Lord

TFWS 2074

Shout to the Lord, all the Earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Old Testament

Numbers 21:4-9

Robert Kelly

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*Gospel Lesson

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe

are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Sermon

"So We Look to Jesus"

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**

We've a story to tell to the nations

UMH 569

We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

***Sending Forth**

Rev. Myungim

***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

"Praise" – Dennis Eliot

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