



**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 20, 2022 + Third Sunday in Lent + 10:00 AM

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

Rev. John Schol, Bishop

Kenneth Rapp, Music Director

Rev. Franck Aguilh, Pastor of Mission

Rev. William M. Williams, District Superintendent

Dr. Michael Stewart, Lay Leader

ChangYong Shin, Lead Pastor

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

Karen Merchant

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome! Today is the Third Sunday in Lent. We have posted our livestreams on Facebook and YouTube, and Children's messages have been uploaded on our YouTube channel every week.

Upcoming meetings/gatherings

- . Lenten Bible Study: March 20 (Sun), 11:40am at the Pastor's office & zoom.
- . Christians Education Committee: March 20 (Sun), 1:30pm via zoom.
- . Youth Activity: March 20 (Sun), 4:00pm via zoom.
- . Souper Saturday: March 26 (Sat), 8:00am at the church.
- . Church Council meeting with District Superintendent & St. Mark UMC: March 29 (Tue), 7:30 pm.

UMW

- . UMW is now called United Women in Faith.
- . United Women in Faith Assembly 2022: May 20-22

Church Tree Update (A photo board on the way to Mill's Room)

- . Please reach out to Jackson to take a new photo of you.
- . If you have an update for your information(photo, address, email, phone number), please reach out to Michelle.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: A great teacher once said, "When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids us come and die". We are the people who have responded to this call.

People: **Through Christ, we want to die to the fears that keep us from loving.**

Leader: Through Christ, we want to die to the stubbornness that keeps us from sharing our gifts.

People: **Through Christ, we want to die to seeking our own success and salvation in disregard for the good of all God's children.**

Leader: This is God's promise, that if we die with Christ, we will also rise with Christ.

All: **God be praised for the glorious promise of new life in Christ. Alleluia!**

Lenten Candle Liturgy

Leader: Listen now. There is a place of quiet rest, and it is the place where God dwells within you. Close your eyes. Be aware of the place. In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God, beneath the clamor. Let the story of Jesus reach us there. Let it teach us wisdom in our secret hearts. As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of violence in the world and to the Earth.

(Three candles are extinguished.)

All: Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (vs 1,3)

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.

Opening Prayer

Leader: O God of everflowing grace, you fill our every need and satisfy our every hunger. As we come before you to feast on your goodness our mouths are filled with praise for your wonderful Name. From generation to generation you have sustained your people. In the deserts of life you bring forth springs of water. When we encounter the storms of life, you are our refuge. You nurture us as your own beloved, but we do not bear fruit. We are never satisfied. We seek out the comforts of this earth and do dishonor to you, the Giver of every good gift. We are liable for judgement, for our guilt is great. Spare your wrath from falling on us, O merciful God. Forgive our sin and free us to follow with joy in your righteous ways. We know that those who call upon your Name rejoice. Help us rejoice anew as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: We confess, O God, that we are attracted to false gods and easy answers in life. We are vulnerable to temptations that could damage us in ways that are not obvious. Forgive us that sin that draws us like moths to a flame. Restore us and fill us with godly

resolve. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession...)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Christ died and rose again to restore our broken relationship with God so that we live fully in the power of God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, 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 & Verona).
- 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

Dear Jesus In Whose Life (vs 1)

UMH468

1. Dear Jesus, in whose life I see all that I would, but fail to be,
Let thy clear light forever shine, to Shame and guide this life of mine.

CALLED TO THE WORD

*Psalter Reading

Psalm 63:1-8

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People: **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

People: **So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

Leader: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

People: **when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

Leader: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

All: **My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. Amen.**

Hymn of Illumination*Dear Jesus In Whose Life (vs 2)*

UMH468

2. Though what I dream And what I do in my weak days are always two,
Help Me, oppressed by things undone, O thou whose deeds and dreams were one!

Old Testaments

Isaiah 55:6-9

Sarah Nwafor

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 13:6-9

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Sermon**"The Barren Fig Tree"**

Pastor ChangYong Shin

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**

Where he leads me (vs 1,2,4)

UMH 338

1. I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling, "Take thy cross and follow, Follow me."

[Refrain]

Where He leads me I will follow, Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

2. I'll go with Him through the garden, I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him through the garden, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

4. He will give me grace and glory, He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory, And go with me, with me all the way.

***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

Karen Merchant

Next Sunday Worship Team (March 27, 2022)

Preacher: Michael Stewart

Liturgist: Langirene Aguilh

Reader: David Winful

Ushers: Robert & Bobbette

Acolyte: Joe Myers

Children's Message: Leslie Lester

Counters: Robert & Bobbette & Janice

Music Director: Kenneth Rapp

*LIFT Praise Band: Arlene Stewart, Alexa Majana, Jessica Matos, Karen Merchant, Leslie Lester, Rob Lester, Sarah Nwafor, Stephon Arseneault.

*Voice of Praise: Amy Anderson, Alexa Majana, Gloria Foster, Hilda Taylor, Karen Merchant, Robert Kelly, Sarah Nwafor, David Winful.