



**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.**

September 13, 2020 + Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost + 10:00 AM

Bolded text - said in unison by all

UMH - *United Methodist Hymnal*

TFWS – *The Faith We Sing*

CALLED TO PRAISE AND PRAY

Prelude

Because He Lives - William Gaither

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: God is waiting to speak with all of us; do not fear to listen for God's word.

**All: We are waiting and listening for wisdom from God;
the law of God is not a threat, but a guide.**

Leader: God is here to embrace and enlist us; do not be afraid to respond to God's love.

All: Our hearts rejoice in God's acceptance of us;

God's mercy inspires us to be merciful.

Leader: God is welcoming us into the realm of heaven;
do not hesitate to enter this time of praise.

**All: We are here to enlightened and empowered;
may our thoughts and words honor the Christ.**

Opening Hymn

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

[Refrain]

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder,
our transport, when Jesus we see.

Opening Prayer

Leader: We observe this day to honor you, Awesome God, to bow before you in fear and praise. You have shown your steadfast love even when we betray it. You have been with us amid the thunder and lightning. You have been our rock and redeemer. Yet you also judge us and allow us to reap the consequences of our broken covenants. Make your presence and purposes known to us here, that we may delight in your law and experience your grace, through Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: O God, whose ways are not our ways, we confess that we have discounted or ignored your commandments. We have chosen our own standards instead of seeking ultimate good. We have substituted our illusions for your truth. Our words and actions have hurt others and diminished us. We have become so comfortable with our own sin that we find it hard to recognize. We have been so unforgiving of other' sin that they cannot discern the Christ in us. Please, God, will you forgive us again? Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer ...)

Leader: If you forgive others from your heart, you are open to receive God's forgiveness of you.

If you cannot forgive those from whom you are estranged, even God cannot mend all the brokenness. Let us rejoice that the worst we have done does not cut us off from God's love. God's forgiveness is real to us when we forgive. Let us live as a forgiven and forgiving people. Amen.

All: We are forgiven; thanks to be 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 (In Unison)

Children's Message

Christopher Sterling

Responsive Hymn

Change My Heart, O God

TFWS2152

Change my heart, Oh God, make It ever true, Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like you
You are the potter I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this Is what I pray
Change my heart, Oh God, make It ever true, Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like you.

CALLED TO THE WORD

Psalter Reading

Psalm 19:7-14

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Hymn of Illumination

Awesome God

TFWS 2040

Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God

Epistle Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Robert Kelly

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon**"The Practice of Forgiveness"**

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

Help Us Accept Each Other

UMH 560

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love,
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.
4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit, Lord, free us, make us one!

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

"Everybody Sing Praise To the Lord"—John Peterson

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