



**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 20, 2020 + Sixteenth 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**

*Come Christians, Join to Sing - R.W.Thygerson*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Remember again the wonderful works of God;  
rejoice in the abundance of God's steadfast love.

**All: God has blessed us beyond all deserving;  
how wonderful it is to recognize God's presence!**

Leader: Examine before God the quality of your commitment; come to worship the one true God.

**All: God promises to dwell with us; how easily we forget to look for God's signs.**

Leader: The glory of God fills the place where we are; respond together to God's mighty power.

**All: God, who dwelt with our ancestors, meets us now;  
we will feast on God's presence together.**

### Opening Hymn

*My Hope Is Built*

UMH 368

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

#### [Refrain]

**On Christ the solid rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

### Opening Prayer

Leader: The gospel of Christ has drawn us once more to seek the realm of heaven. Your ways, O God, surprise us, for your standards are not our own. We want quick results, while you work patiently for steady transformation. We seek to comprehend within narrow limits, but you come to us to broaden our horizons. We dare to worship what we cannot see because Christ has demonstrated that your love is real. Love us now into becoming all we are meant to be. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Prayer of Confession

**All: We confess, Mighty God, that worshiping you is not the center of our lives. We prefer busyness to quiet contemplation. We reach for artificial excitement instead of the steady pace of faithful service. We are a stiff-necked people who embrace individuality at the expense of community, yet insist on conformity in preference to originality. Forgive us, God, for insisting on our own way. Amen.**

(Pausing for Silent Prayer ...)

Leader: The wrath of God against our sin does not destroy the mercy of God toward all who seek a better way. We are saved for the sake of God's name, in order to make known God's mighty

power. Seek to grown in faith, that your manner of life may be worthy of the gospel. Amen.

**All: We are saved for the sake of God's name! 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

*As the Deer*

TFWS 2025

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

### **CALLED TO THE WORD**

### Psalter Reading

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

UMH 798

I cry aloud to God, aloud that God may hear me.

**In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out continually;  
my soul refuses to be comforted.**

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.

**I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.**

Your ways, O god, is holy.

**What god is great like our God?**

You are the God who works wonders, you manifested your might among the peoples.

**You redeemed with your arm your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.**

When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
the very deep trembled.

**The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder;  
your arrows flashed on every side.**

The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings illumined the world;  
**the earth trembled and shook.**

Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

**You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

### Hymn of Illumination

*Jesus, We Are Here*

TFWS 2273

1. *Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here; we are here for you*

2. *Master, we are here; Master, we are here; Master, we are here; we are here for you*

*3. Spirit, we are here; Spirit, we are here; Spirit, we are here; we are here for you*

**Epistle Lesson**

Philippians 1:21-30

David Winful

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 20:1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

**Sermon**

**"Know The God We Serve"**

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**

*Close to Thee*

UMH 407

1. Thou my everlasting portion, more than friend or life to me,  
All alone my pilgrim journey, Savior let me walk with Thee.  
Close to Thee, close to Thee, close to Thee, close to Thee  
All along my pilgrim journey, Savior, let me walk with Thee.
  
2. Not for easy wordly pleasure, nor for fame my prayer shall be;  
Gladly will I toil and suffer, only let me walk with Thee.  
Close to Thee, close to Thee, close to Thee, close to Thee,  
Gladly will I toil and suffer, only let me walk with Thee.
  
3. Lead me through the vale of shadows, bear me o'er life's fitful sea;  
Then the gate of life eternal may I enter Lord with Thee.  
Close to Thee, close to Thee, close to Thee, close to Thee  
Then the gate of life eternal may I enter Lord, with Thee.

**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**

*" Allegro Energico"– Mark Williams*

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