



**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 27, 2020 + Seventeenth 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

"Swing Low" - Prr: Joe Utterback

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Enter with conscious intent into the presence of God;
the Almighty looks on us with compassion and favor.

**All: Let all the people tremble before the Holy One;
let the earth quake before God, who reigns over all.**

Leader: The glory of God surrounds us day by day;
our Creator is gracious and merciful.

**All: Let us praise God's great name!
Let us proclaim God's justice and equity.**

Leader: God is at work in us and in all people;
the Sovereign One has gifted us with Jesus Christ.

**All: Let our minds be shaped by the mind of Christ.
Let our service follow the patterns Jesus taught.**

Opening Hymn

Wonderful Words of Life

UMH 600

1. Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

[Refrain]

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
all so freely given, wooing us to heaven.
3. Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever.

Opening Prayer

Leader: O God, how shall we know you? How can we experience your presence with us? Do you really know our names and care about each one of us? If we have found favor in your sight, how will that be known? We cannot see you with our eyes or hear your voice with our ears. Speak to us in language our souls can receive. Enlighten our inner being, that joy may radiate in our actions. Work in and among us, that we may glimpse your pleasure for all humanity. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, we have heard you call us, and we have answered yes. Yet, we have gone our own way, ignoring the paths you bid us travel and the work you would have us do. We have considered ourselves to be good people, deserving special favor, yet we have not put you first in our lives. We have been arrogant and selfish in our relationship with others. Seeing ourselves in the mirror of Christ, we begin to realize that we deserve your wrath, not your forgiveness. We are not worthy of the love you offer and the acceptance you extend.

Help us, Gracious God. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer ...)

Leader: Hear the good news. No matter who you are, or what you have done, Christ welcomes us into God's kingdom with open arms. When we open our hearts and our lives to Christ God's forgiveness is truly ours.

All: 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.
- Send a text to Pastor Kim

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Children's Message

Dr. Leslie Lester

Responsive Hymn

He Is Exalted

TFWS 2070

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign; Heaven and Earth
Rejoice in His holy name. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

CALLED TO THE WORD

Psalter Reading

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

UMH 799

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

things that we have heard and known, that our forebears have told us.

**We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, the might, and wonders God has wrought.**

**The Lord wrought marvels in the sight of their forebears
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan,**

the Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap,

led them with a cloud in the daytime, and all the night with a fiery light,

cleft rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep,

made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Hymn of Illumination

Make Me a Servant

TFWS 2176

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

Dr. Michael Stewart

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Sermon

"Will You?"

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

O How I Love Jesus

UMH 170

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

[Refrain]

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Savior's love, who died and set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.
3. It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;
Who in each sorrow a part that none can bear below.

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

" Praises" - Dennis Eliot

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