



**LOVE FIRST.  
SERVE FIRST.**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF MONTCLAIR & VERONA**



© Ling Chen | lingchen.art

**WE WELCOME YOU ALL TO OUR SUNDAY SERVICE  
AND APPRECIATE YOUR VIRTUAL PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION.**

January 31, 2021 + Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany + 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*

**Worship Leader: Vidal Guzman**

**CALLED TO PRAISE AND PRAY**

**Prelude**

*"Meditation on The Hymn Tune Arlington"- David Paxton*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Come to worship this day. Bring with you all your joys and sorrows.

**People:** **Jesus will offer hope.**

Leader: Come to worship this day believing in the power of God through Jesus Christ.

**People: Jesus will bring us healing.**

Leader: Come to worship this day feeling the presence of God.

**People: Jesus will teach us new ways to live. AMEN.**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

### **"Be Thou My Vision"**

UMH 451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

### **Opening Prayer**

Leader: Loving God, love through us, as we worship your holy name. Love through us, as we listen for your holy word. Love through us, as we live your teachings and offer your love to our world. In your majestic name, we pray. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Let us confess together that we have not always lived as those forgiven, set free, and united in Christ.

**All: O God, source of life and grace, we are aware that we are, at times, prisoners of fear and habit. Through the healing touch of Christ, set us free to live and to love, that we may be the people you have created us to be. Amen.**

(Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession...)

### **Words of Assurance**

Leader: The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again. Let us praise God with songs of joy!

**All: Full of mercy and compassion, God knows us to the core of our being, and loves us through all of our days. 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**

### *"Awesome God"*

TFWS 2040

Our God is an awesome God; he reigns from heaven above with wisdom,  
pow'r, and love. Our God is an awesome God!

## **CALLED TO THE WORD**

### **Psalter Reading**

Psalm 111

Leader: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**People: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

Leader: Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**People: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Leader: He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**People: He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

Leader: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

**People: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Leader: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

**People: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.**

### **Hymn of Illumination**

*Change My Heart O God*

TFWS 2152

Change my heart O God Make it ever true  
Change my heart O 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 O God Make it ever true  
Change my heart O God May I be like you

### **New Testament Lesson**

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

Joe Myers

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as in fact there are many gods and many lords-- yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**\*Gospel Lesson**

**Mark 1:21-28**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**Sermon**

**"As Often As We Eat And Drink"**

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**

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

UMH 557

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

**\*Sending Forth**

Leader: Go now to love as beloved children of God.

**People: We will go to live as living signs of Christ's presence.**

Leader: God now to transform the world.

**People: We will do it with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!**

**\*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**

*"Toccata"- Lani Smith*

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