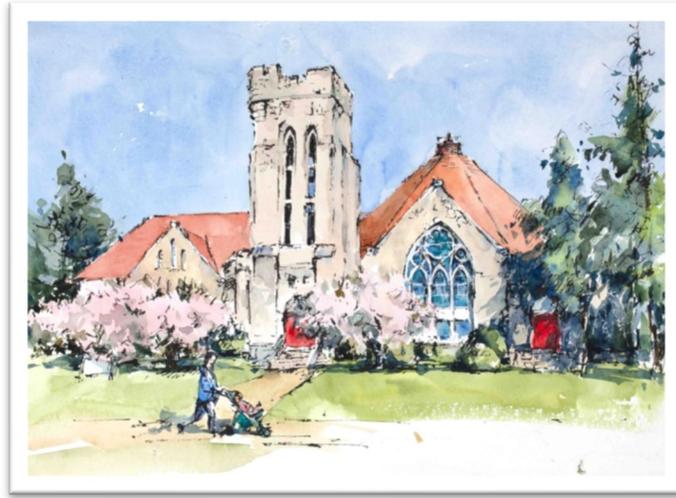




**LOVE FIRST.
SERVE FIRST.**

**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.**

December 20, 2020 + The Fourth Sunday of Advent + 10:00 AM

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

"Veni Emmanuel" – Rex Koury

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

All : The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

All : The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

**All : May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!
Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

People, Look East

UMH 202

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Opening Prayer

Pastor: O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel! God with us, You came to us long ago as a helpless babe, as one in need of human love and care. You taught us how to love and care for one another. Help us to hold on to childlike wonder, amazement, and love, and help us to love one another all year long. Guide our feet into the way of peace, as only the Prince of Peace can lead us, by laying down our lives for one another and serving one another. In the name of Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord, you know that the time we've spent away from you has been filled with turmoil, disappointment, frustration, heartache, and despair. We have forgotten all about being blameless and turning the other cheek. Lord, we want to be sanctified and holy; we do. We want to be kind, to hold on to the good and encourage and greet each other in love. Fill our mouths with praise and laughter, our hearts with joy and peace and our souls with quiet satisfaction. This is our prayer. Amen. (Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Leader: The grace of our Lord is all over us, no matter what comes or what goes. Whether there are floods, earthquakes, overdue bills, disease, hardheaded children, unresponsive parents, betrayal, unfaithfulness – it doesn't matter because God is bigger than all the things that perplex us. May our hearts and minds be filled with confidence and peace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle (Peace)

The Marco Family

Reader One: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Reader Two: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the

messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader One: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

Reader Two: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

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

Children's Message

Dr. Leslie Lester

Responsive Hymn

Holy Ground

TFWS 2272

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

CALLED TO THE WORD

Canticle of Mary

UMH 199

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

**The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is the name of the Lord,
whose mercy is on those who fear God from generation to generation.**

The arm of the Lord is strong, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich empty away.

**God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant, remembering the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Hymn of Illumination

Jesus, Name Above All Names

TFWS 2071

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38

David Winful

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

"Exuberant Anticipation of Blessing"

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**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

***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

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" – Jon Spong

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