



**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.**

February 7, 2021 + Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany + 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

"It is well with my Soul" - Rex Koury

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

People: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

Pastor: God embraces the wounded and broken.

People: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

Pastor: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

People: God is the light of our lives.

Pastor: God is the one who makes all things new.

People: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

***Opening Hymn**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UMH 57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Holy one, with our ancestors and all the people of God, we gather to sing your praises. You are the one who has created the cosmos and the ants. You give food to whales and sparrows, name the stars, and count the hairs on our heads. Compassionate One, we offer you our thanksgiving for your many blessings. Powerful One, inspire us this day: to turn our praise into action, to share your good news with those who long to hear a word of hope, to proclaim your message of peace and justice throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: God of Strength, we confess our doubt.

All: We are weary, but we turn to caffeine instead of waiting to be carried effortlessly on your eagle's wings. We confess our lack of trust. Forgive us, we pray.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Words of Assurance

Pastor: Hear God's promise to all: "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

All: We know that God's promise of grace and forgiveness is free of charge. 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.

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Message

Dr. Leslie Lester

Responsive Hymn

On Eagle's Wings

UMH 143

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

CALLED TO THE WORD

***Psalter Reading**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Leader: Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

People: The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

Leader: He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

People: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Leader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

People: The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Leader: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

**People: He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.**

Leader: He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

**People: His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure
in the speed of a runner;**

Leader: but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

People: Praise the LORD!

Hymn of Illumination

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you, to share his love as he told me to.

He said "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.

Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live."

New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Bobbette Kelly

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

*Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Sermon

"Lessons From the Chameleon Apostle"

Rev. Franck Aguilh

*Passing the Peace of Christ

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born;
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,
you have led your people from far places to his light.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Thanksgiving (in unison)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go Into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for
others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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**

Pass It On

UMH 572

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it,
You spread the love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

***Sending Forth**

Rev. Franck Aguilh

***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

"Epilogue"- Steven Scott

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