



**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.**

April 18, 2021 + Third Sunday of Easter + 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*

CALLED TO PRAISE AND PRAY

Prelude

"His Love Brings Peace" – Colin Curtis

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: When we are confused

People: Lord, give us peace.

Leader: When we are afraid

People: Lord, give us peace.

Leader: When we are lost in grief

People: Lord, give us peace.

All: O God, meet us in this room and grant us peace!

***Opening Hymn**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

UMH 66

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise the Lord for grace and favor to his people in distress;
Praise God, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness!

Opening Prayer

Leader: Eternal God, we are here, yearning to know you more fully. Stay with us as we worship this day. Reveal yourself in the words that are spoken and the songs that are sung. Help us understand your truth, and embrace your life-giving power, revealed within your enduring word. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

People: Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Words of Assurance

Leader: The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. There is no darkness now, only light. God continues to renew us and restore us. We are forgiven, loved and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection now. Go and share the wondrous news of God's love in Jesus the Christ.

People: We are forgiven, loved and restored. 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

Lord's Prayer

Children's Message

Dr. Leslie Lester

Responsive Hymn

In His Time

TFWS 2203

In his time, in his time; he makes all things beautiful in his time.
Lord, please show me every day as you're teaching me your way,
That you do just what you say in your time.

CALLED TO THE WORD

***Psalter Reading**

Psalm 4

Leader: Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**People: How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah**

Leader: But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

People: When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah

Leader: Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

**People: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"**

Leader: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

**People: I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.**

Hymn of Illumination

He Is Lord

UMH 177

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the death and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

New Testament Lesson

Acts 9:1-6

Bobbette Kelly

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them,

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Sermon

"Instruments In God's Hands"

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**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

UMH 581

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:
We, Your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name
we go to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

***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

"Praise The Lord on High!" – Rachael Sawaya

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