



**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.**

May 16, 2021 + Seventh Sunday of Easter + 10:00 AM  
Ascension Sunday

**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**

*"Swing Low" – Spiritual Arr; Joe Utterback*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus Christ has ascended into the heavens and sits at your right hand while we are down here laboring doing the best that we can to survive.

People: **God help us!**

Leader: We are keeping our heads above water, but (God forgive us) sometimes drowning seems to be an answer.

**People: God help us!**

Leader: We keep our faith and trust in you in spite of how we are being treated.

**People: God help us!**

Leader: We are abused, misused, and accused. For this reason, we understand more and more that this world is not our home and we are just strangers passing through the night.

**People: God help us!**

**All: God, we are your children and we need you to help us so that our feet won't slip and our faith won't waver. We believe in you and trust in your Holy Word. Do it God! Do it today! God help us!**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

*Crown Him with many Crowns*

UMH 327

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

### **Opening Prayer**

Leader: Holy Spirit, be with us in our worship this day. Draw us ever closer to you, that we may become one. Draw us ever closer to your word, that we may be wise. Draw us ever closer to your world, that we may serve and love as you guide us to do. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**People: You call us to proclaim a gospel we find difficult to practice, God Most High. Forgive us, God of Light. Fill us with the healing presence of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your good news, as we participate in the life and suffering of our world, as did your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.** (Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

### **Words of Assurance**

Leader: Choosing to set aside judgment, God gives us justice; choosing to let go of punishment, God fills us with peace; choosing to release anger, God's steadfast love rests upon us.

**People: Forgiven, redeemed, restored—we will tell everyone, through the lives we lead, what God has done for us. 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**

**Responsive Hymn**

*Shout To the Lord*

TFWS 2074

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you , forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

**CALLED TO THE WORD**

**\*Psalter Reading**

**Psalm 47**

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
**People: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**  
Leader: He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.  
**People: He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah**  
Leader: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
**People: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**  
Leader: For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.  
**People: God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**  
**All: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.**  
**For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.**

**Hymn of Illumination**

*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.

**New Testament Lesson**

Acts 1:1-11

James Morello

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why

do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**\*Gospel Lesson**

Luke 24:44-53

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. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**Sermon**

**"TIME TO MOVE ON"**

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**

*Majesty, Worship His Majesty*

UMH 176

Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his throne, unto his own, his anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.  
Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings

**\*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**

*"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" - Peter Scholtes*