



**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 2, 2021 + Fifth 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

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" – Charles F. Gounod

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God is the True Vine,

People: And we are the branches.

Leader: Connected to God.

People: Connected to bear fruit!

Leader: Connected to God.

People: Or we wither away.

Leader: Connected to God.

People: Or useless!

Leader: We come to worship God, who is the True Vine.

People: God, teach us how to remain connected so that we might bear good fruit!

*Opening Hymn

Morning Has Broken

UMH 145

Morning has broken like the first morning; Blackbird has spoken like the first bird

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Divine vinegrower, the soil of your love nurtures the roots of our lives each and every day. As we consecrate ourselves into your loving care, plant us in the soil of your love that we may abide in Christ, our true vine, and bear the fruit of your love and grace. Give us rain in seasons of doubt and nourish our growth, that our harvest of love may bless the world. In your bountiful name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

People: We thank you, gracious God, for Jesus Christ the true vine. We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into him, to be branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all the fruits of earth. Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live. Have mercy on us. Please do not lose patience or sever us completely from the true vine. May we remain in Christ and He in us, through all the changing seasons of life. In His name we pray. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Jesus said, "If you reside in me, and my words reside in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you." Friends, we have asked for forgiveness and correction. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

Jesus, I Adore You

TFWS 2038

Jesus, I adore You, lay my life before You; how I love You

CALLED TO THE WORD

***Psalter Reading**

Psalm 22:25-31

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

People: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

Leader: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

People: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

All: and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Hymn of Illumination

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

TFWS 2223

We will work with each other, we will work hand in hand,
We will work with each other, we will work hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

New Testament Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

Joe Myers

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon

"A House For All People"

Rev. Myungim Kim

*Passing the Peace of Christ

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your heads.

We lift them up to God.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Lift up your hands.

We dedicate our heads, our hearts, and our hands to the worship of God.

We offer our entire being to the God of Creation, who made the sun and the moon to govern by day and by night and hung the stars in the sky.

We offer our entire being to the great God who hollowed out the valleys and bulged up the mountains, who spat out the seven seas, and populated the world with glorious creatures.

Blessed be the name of the Lord who created us and fashioned us from the dust and breathed into us the breath of life.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, Bless his holy name.

He has done great things, he has done great things,

he has done great things, bless his holy name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who came to us in spite of our destructive ways. He healed the sick, raised the dead and cast out demons.

In the brief time that he was with us, Jesus sided with the oppressed, had compassion for those who suffer, and gave dignity to women and children.

He taught us in word and deed about a God we had been unable to understand.

In spite of his glory-revealing presence among us, we turned him into a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Jesus was persecuted by certain religious leaders and betrayed by one of his own. He was lied about, tortured, and hung on a cross to die.

Yet, even on the day of his crucifixion, Jesus continued to teach those who would listen.

When evil people came with his betrayer, Jesus did not respond with violence, choosing instead to remind us that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. When he was falsely accused and condemned to death, Jesus refused to do harm. And while hanging on the cross, he prayed:

"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

But we give you thanks that nothing ever was, or ever will be, able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Early on the morning of the third day, Jesus laughed at death, shed his grave clothes, and walked among us alive! Forty days later, he ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of the God of our ancestors. Our eyes are turned toward the skies looking for the day when Jesus shall return to a kingdom without end, where the lion will lie down peaceably with the lamb, where sickness and disease are not known where the wicked will cease from troubling and we will study war no more!

**Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.**

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, He shared a meal with his disciples.

He took bread from the table, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples saying:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying:

"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." Today, Jesus, we remember the bread and the cup.

Today, we remember your life and your death.

We remember your resurrection; we remember eternal life.

As we receive these gifts in praise and thanksgiving we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine;

make them be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Wonder-working God, pour out your Spirit upon us;

as we offer ourselves to be God's presence in the world until Jesus returns in glory.

Almighty God,

We your people cry out to you on behalf of our community:

Have mercy upon all who suffer from the evils of poverty.

Have mercy upon all who have lost their way.

Have mercy upon all who have been offended by the church.

Have mercy upon all who feel forgotten and neglected.

Have mercy upon us Triune God, and make us worthy to be called your people

who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy, Lord!

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-new-great-thanksgiving-for-eastertide>)

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**

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

UMH 569

We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

***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

"Festive Toccata" – Robert Thygerson

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