



**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 9, 2021 + Sixth 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

"A Little More Faith in Jesus" – John W. Wock

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: See what love has been given to us, that we should be called children of God.

People: **By this we know love, that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, and lived and died, that God's love might be made plain among us.**

Leader: Therefore, beloved, let us not love in word or in speech but in deed and in truth.

People: Because we love one another, we know that we have passed from death into life.

All: This is the victory that overcomes the world, through Jesus our risen Christ. Amen

***Opening Hymn**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art,

Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Opening Prayer

Leader: O Beloved One, all the ends of the earth marvel at your deeds of power; we feel your presence as growth returning to the countryside; we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love revealed in the risen Christ. Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love fill us with generosity and courage so that we may be called your friends and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

People: Loving and merciful One, we thank you for the community in which you have placed us, for the brothers and sisters with whom we walk this pilgrim journey. Yet, we confess that we fail to love as you love. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither East nor West, neither South nor North. We pray for the sake of your Kingdom that both is and is not yet. Amen. (Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Words of Assurance

Leader: God's Spirit is with us, embracing us with forgiveness and grace abiding us with the power of love for all.

People: 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

As the Deer

TFWS 2025

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

CALLED TO THE WORD

***Psalter Reading**

Psalm 98

Leader: O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**People: The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise
before the King, the LORD.**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**People: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy
All: at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Hymn of Illumination

Open Our Eyes

TFWS 2086

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him,
and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

New Testament Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

Robert Kelly

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

***Gospel Lesson**

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing;

but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon

"PARTNERS IN GOD'S DRAMA"

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**

The Gift of Love

UMH 408

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

***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

Postlude on "Hymn to Joy" – Gordon Young

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