



**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.**

June 20, 2021 + Fourth Sunday after Pentecost + 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

"There is a Balm in Gilead" – Arr; Hal Hopson

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Strength is commanding the wind and sea to obey,

People: Strength is wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.

Leader: Strength is accepting vulnerability from inside the boat,

People: Strength is standing in solidarity with the powerless.

Leader: Strength is turning a cheek,

People: Strength is loving an enemy.

Leader: We come to worship

ALL: a God who redefines our vision of strength. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH 577

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.*

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Loving God, when we are inclined to worry or panic, speak with authority to us. Speak directly through Jesus so that fears may be confronted, and our faith reinstated. Through him and in him let us spend our days and nights with the courage and peace of those who know they are being saved and sustained by an imperturbable grace. And to you be the glory and praise; Amen!

Prayer of Confession

People: Merciful God, we have not relied on your word or wisdom; we have not shown any concern or compassion when we should have; we have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. We have remained silent when we should have spoken and spoken when we should have been silent. Have mercy on us. (Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Words of Assurance

Leader: God listens; God helps. Now is the day of our salvation. Rejoice and receive the good news.

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

Awesome God

TFWS 2040

Our God is an awesome God; he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God!

CALLED TO THE WORD

*Psalter Reading

Psalm 9:9-20

Leader: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

People: And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion. Declare his deeds among the peoples.

People: For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

Leader: Be gracious to me, O LORD. See what I suffer from those who hate me; you are the one who lifts me up from the gates of death,

People: so that I may recount all your praises, and, in the gates of daughter Zion, rejoice in your deliverance.

Leader: The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid has their own foot been caught.

People: The LORD has made himself known, he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. Higgaiion. Selah

Leader: The wicked shall depart to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.

People: For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.

Leader: Rise up, O LORD! Do not let mortals prevail; let the nations be judged before you.

People: Put them in fear, O LORD; let the nations know that they are only human. Selah

Hymn of Illumination

Bind Us Together

TFWS 2226

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in Love.

There is only one God, there is only one King;

There is only one body, that is why we sing.

New Testament Lesson

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Bobbette Kelly

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return--I speak as to children--open wide your hearts also.

***Gospel Lesson**

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Sermon

"Keep the Faith"

Dr. Michael Stewart

***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**

Be Still, My Soul

UMH 534

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side, Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide; in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

***Sending Forth**

Leader: Put obstacles in no one's way, but rejoice in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness,
holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God. Go in peace.

People: Amen.

***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

"Steadfast in Faith" – Ed Broughton