

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, September 29, 2024

*If you are able, please stand.

10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.



WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"People inside of belonging systems are very threatened by those who are not within that group. They are threatened by anyone who has found their citizenship in places they cannot control."

Richard Rohr



Prelude

Autumn Leaves

Joseph Kozma

Bob Whiteley, bass

Anne Marie Juliano, piano

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 124:8)

Pastor Greg Horn

One: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

All: who made heaven and earth.

In speaking, in silence, in movement, in stillness,

God is with us.

In trusting, in giving, in serving,

God alone saves us; God alone helps us.

In Christ, God alone opens the door to pathways of peace.

Let us worship our Maker, our Helper, our Redeemer!

*Opening Hymn 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

Julian B. Rush

(verses 1-3, 5)

Prayer of Confession and Preparation (unison)

Denise Silecchia

Gracious God, we come before you this morning with high expectations and humble hearts. You keep sending gifts to us, but we do not claim them. You offer us the way back to ourselves, we know; but, again and again, we choose to go it alone. Lost, publicly or in secret, we have nowhere else to turn.

Lord of grace, break in on our confusion and self-destroying ways. Astonish us anew. Our prayer today is that you will claim us again this day and silence within us our need to always have words for every occasion, that we might hear the whisper of your Spirit. In Jesus' holy name, we pray.

our silent prayers of preparation and confession

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Hymn 452 (seated) *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Paul Baloche

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

***We Give God Glory** (Hymn #582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Welcome & Life of the Church

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time for Children

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, all children may attend Sunday School.)

Anthem

Wayfaring Stranger

Howard Helvey

Chancel Choir

John Weidemann

Scripture Reading (p.162 of OT)

Numbers 11:23-30 (NRSV)

²³The Lord said to Moses, 'Is the Lord's power limited? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not.'

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' ²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' ²⁹But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!' ³⁰And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

³⁸John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Us Against Them Is Against Us”

Pastor Greg Horn

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***Hymn 300**

We Are One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes

(They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)

We Worship With Our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Mark Hayes

Julie Platte, soprano

***We Give Praise to God** (Hymn #606)

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of the People

***Closing Hymn 321** *The Church’s One Foundation*

Aurelia

(verses 1–3, 5)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*The flowers decorating the chancel this morning
are given to the glory of God by Lynne & Mark DiBenedetto.*

WELCOME and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. After worship, you are warmly invited for refreshments and conversation on the church’s East Lawn (inside in Fellowship Hall if raining).

PLEASE ASK AN USHER for anything you might need, and please help fellow worshipers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

CHILDCARE for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall (adjacent to sanctuary). Ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for directions. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time, please step out briefly with your children as they are dismissed to fill out an emergency contact form before returning to the sanctuary.

CONFIRMATION STARTS OCTOBER 6TH – Please join your PCUM family in welcoming and praying for the 13- and 14-year-olds who will start their year-long journey exploring the Christian and Presbyterian traditions and the ways faith relates to and deepens living in today's world. Confirmants meet weekly for honest discussion and fun, help lead worship in various ways on Communion Sundays (the 1st Sunday of the month), and develop and learn about faith through serving others. Welcome, PCUM Confirmation Class!

REGISTER FOR PCUM'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School learning starts in the sanctuary. Then, after the Children's sermon, kids gather for a fun, faith-building music time before dividing into smaller groups for interactive Bible story lessons. There are also special congregation-wide kids' events throughout the year, including the annual Fun Run, the Christmas Pageant, and the Easter Egg Hunt! **You can register your child(ren) for Sunday School online at www.pcum.org.** Sunday School sign-up forms are also available in classrooms. If you have questions about Sunday School or other ministries for children and families at PCUM, please reach out to Millie Tourtelot, Dir. of Christian Education, at millie@pcum.org.

PCUM'S MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meets Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. All teens and tweens 6th–8th grade are warmly invited to come out to have fun, share dinner, and meet old and new friends. Contact Garrett Pahl (garrett@pcum.org) and Sierra Joy (sierra@pcum.org) for more information.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – Next Sunday, **October 6th**, you are invited to join Christians of all denominations around the world in celebrating *World Communion Sunday*. The PCUM family of members and friends will gather at the Lord's Table and take up the *2024 Presbyterian Peace & Global Witness Offering*, which supports the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking in the way of Jesus, the Lord of Peace.

MONTCLAIR MUSIC CLUB announces the 2024-25 season opening concert, **Monday evening, October 7th at 7:30 pm** in the church sanctuary. Among the instrumental and vocal music on this delightful program: Beethoven's Sonata for piano and horn with Paul Erickson, horn and Rebecca Eng, piano; Broadway favorites by vocalist Laura Cardona with pianist Eric Olsen; and works by C.P.E. Bach and Gaubert with flutist Mina Sukovic and pianist Piaowen Tian. Free and open to the public. Donations welcome. Reception immediately following the program.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY: On Sunday, October 20th, PCUMers will celebrate the church's 117th year of ministry and service with the recognition of longtime members during the worship service.

DEDICATE FLOWERS – You can honor/memorialize loved ones by dedicating flowers for any Sunday morning worship service throughout the year. A few dates remain open for 2024. The suggested donation for two bouquets is \$80. Sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Deacons' Corner or online at www.pcum.org.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS – Twice each month, you are invited to join fellow PCUM volunteers serving hungry and food-insecure neighbors. PCUM prepares and serves an evening meal here in Montclair on the 4th Saturday of the month and a lunch meal in Newark on the 3rd Saturday of each month. **Sign up at www.pcum.org/serve-others.**

PCUM NOW OFFERS ZELLE as a new option for online giving. Please use treasurer@pcum.org as the recipient, and note the purpose of the offering (pledge, non-pledge, Easter, deacons, etc.).

Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship ✝ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth*

Relationships ✝ *Participation* ✝ *Service to Others and to the World* ✝ *Relevance and Authenticity*

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Pastor & Head of Staff:

The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

Director of Music Ministries:

Anne Marie Juliano

Director of Christian Education: Millie Tourtelot

Co-Youth Leader: Garrett Pahl

Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader: Sierra Joy

Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia

Livestream Techs: Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson

Custodian: Jimmy Abad