

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, May 25, 2025
6th Sunday of Easter



10:00 a.m.

*If you are able, please stand.
Please turn off cell phones.

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"Religious experience involves an encounter with the holy, the mystery of the totally other that opens like a chasm before humans in unexpected ways, making impossible the denial of its presence."

Luke Timothy Johnson,
The Writings of the New Testament: Third Edition

† † † † †

Prelude

Bist du bei mir
Anne Marie Juliano, piano

J. S. Bach

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 67)

Gary Diamante

One: May God be gracious to us; May God bless us.

All: We gather with expectation, trusting that God is here.

May God's face shine upon us.

May the peace God gives us in Christ

call us into the joyful work of creating peace.

Let us worship our God in praise and grateful expectation!

*Opening Hymn 394 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Westminster Abbey

Invitation to Worship and Confession

We come to God as we are: messy, joyful, imperfect, guilty, righteous. Most of all, we come to God as ourselves, human, in need of venting, confessing, forgiving, in need of God, in need of each other. Let us come to God with all we are.

Prayer of Confession and Preparation for Worship (unison)

God of temple and street, you call us to follow you from mountain-top into valley, from the spiritual into the earthy, but we disobey. We choose to keep our religious lives and our everyday lives separate. We choose to keep you at a safe distance. We choose advantage and profit for ourselves over the acts of love to which you call us. We choose to forget that you love us in Christ with a risky, irrational love—a love we don't earn or deserve and that you call us to live and love the same way.

Forgive us Lord, when we reject your grace by taking it for granted and refusing to share it as a way of living. Embolden us to trust that you and your love are sufficient for our lives.

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 702 (seated) *Christ Be Beside Me*

Bunessan

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Pastor Greg Horn

***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.)

Scripture Reading (p.650 of OT)

Psalm 67 (NRSV)

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
- ² that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
- ⁷ May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading (p.165 of NT)

Acts 16:9-15 (NRSV)

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“What Do You Expect?”

Pastor Greg Horn

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***Hymn 684**

Faith Begins by Letting Go

Lux Prima

We Worship With Our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo

It Is Well with My Soul
Courtney Porter

Spafford / Bliss, 1876

***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 69**

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel L. Schutte

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

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 invited for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

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. Please ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers for directions. Parents of kids participating in Sunday School for the first time: please step out briefly with your child(ren) as they are dismissed to register them and complete an emergency contact form.



SIGN UP TO HELP PREPARE & SERVE COFFEE HOUR – PCUM's Coffee Hour is a treasured tradition, and YOU can help your church extend hospitality on Sundays! Sign up to help on the Coffee Hour Calendar in the Deacons' Corner or online at www.pcum.org.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS – Join fellow volunteers in an experience that feeds everyone! PCUM prepares and serves an evening meal in Montclair every 4th Saturday of the month and lunch in Newark the 3rd Saturday. *Sign up at pcum.org/serve-others.*

DEDICATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP – You can honor loved ones by dedicating flowers for any Sunday morning worship service. The suggested donation for two standard bouquets is \$80. Sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Deacons' Corner or online at www.pcum.org.

BREEZE IS HERE! Breeze Church Management Software! – a new communication, information, and giving tool is now available to the PCUM family! Sign up for activities, get the latest updates on church happenings, track and update your church giving, send text and emails to church friends and groups, view the church directory for photos. It's all in *Breeze*!

Everyone in the PCUM family should have received an email invitation to create your own Breeze account, which gives you access to your profile information and giving/pledge information. Over the summer, the Church Office will continue to add more features, such as an online directory, event calendar and online volunteer sign-ups, so **it's important and advantageous to create your Breeze account**. If you did not receive an invitation or have questions, please reach out to Denise in the Church Office (denise@pcum.org). **Thank you** for taking this important step!

NORTHERN LIGHTS CONCERT: PCUM's own Steve Culbertson conducts the Society of Musical Arts Orchestra (SOMA) next Sunday, June 1st at 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield. The theme is *Northern Lights*, featuring the world premiere of the *Janus Overture* by West Orange composer Evan Hause, followed by the *A Minor Piano Concerto* of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, with pianist Matthew Culbertson as soloist, and the *Second Symphony (Romantic)* of American composer Howard Hanson. Admission is free. Visit somaorchestra.org.

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