

# The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday in Lent



10:00 a.m.

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

## WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"...new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark."

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*



### Prelude

Anne Marie Juliano, piano

### \*Call to Worship

Andrew Bortey

One: Beloved in Christ, come into the light of God's love, revealed to us in Jesus.

**All: We come seeking new birth from above, not by our own strength, but by the Spirit's power and grace.**

Jesus said no one can enter God's Presence without being born of the Spirit.

**So breathe on us, Holy Spirit, and awaken us to new life in Christ.**

Because God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, not to condemn the world, but to save it—that all might live abundantly in the Kingdom.

### \*Opening Hymn 504

*We Come as Guests Invited*

*Wie lieblich ist der Maien*

### Prayer of Preparation and Confession (unison)

Pastor Greg Horn

**Merciful God, as we start to walk with Christ this Lent toward the cross, we come before you aware of our weakness and our reluctance. You are holy, and we are not. You are perfect in love; we are driven by fear and self-preservation. We admit that we cling to the need to be perfect. We measure ourselves against others and against impossible standards. We have believed the lie that we have to earn your grace, as though the cross of Christ were not enough. So, we hide our failures from others, from you, and from ourselves.**

**Forgive us. We long to put down this burden. In this season of repentance, welcome us home by reminding us that our righteousness is found not in our performance, but in Jesus Christ alone, not in our strength, but in his mercy; not in our perfection, but in his finished work.**

*We offer our silent prayers.*

### Prayer Response (seated)

Jordan Green, Eleanor Dishong

*Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)*

Chris Tomlin

[Congregation sings refrain, insert.]

## 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.)

### Scripture Reading (p.96 of NT)

**Luke 15:25-32** (NRSV)

<sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Scripture Reading (p.114 of NT)

**John 3:1-9** (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

"Born Anew: Discharging Your Loyal Soldier"

Pastor Greg Horn

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**\*Communion Hymn 525** *Let Us Break Bread Together*

spiritual

**We Worship With Our Offerings**

**Offertory Anthem**

*Come, Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*

Walker/arr. Rouse

Mark Serkin, cello

Chancel Choir

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded; sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.*

*Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry 'til you're better, you will never come at all.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*

**\*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.*

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration**

**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.

**Words of Institution**

**Communion of the People**

**Solo**

*Deep River*

spiritual/arr. D. Funderbuck

Mark Serkin, cello

**Prayer after Communion**

**\*Hymn 314**

*Christ Be Our Light*

Bernadette Farrell

(verses 1, 2, 5)

**\*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 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. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time, please step out briefly as your children are dismissed to fill out a registration form before returning to the sanctuary.



**YOU ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE** – In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is the sign and seal of God's grace in Jesus Christ. The Spirit draws each and all of us to the Table, trusting that God's love brings us into Christ's Presence, nourishes us in hope, and sends us out to share in God's work in the world. All who seek reconciliation with God and neighbor are welcome. Because experiencing the mystery and love of Christ's real spiritual Presence in Communion is not something earned, fully understood, or accomplished by anyone of any age, children with parent/guardian permission are invited to take their place at the table to receive Communion.

**SUPPORT THE DEACONS' MINISTRY TODAY & 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!** On Communion Sundays the 1st Sunday of the month, the PCUM family uses the green envelopes in your pew rack to support the Deacons' ministries of hospitality and compassion. In addition to the green envelopes, you can also give through Zelle ([treasurer@pcum.org](mailto:treasurer@pcum.org)) or at [www.pcum.org](http://www.pcum.org) or mail your check to the church. Please *always* indicate "Deacons Fund."

**TODAY AFTER WORSHIP: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION** – You are invited to be part of the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair's annual congregational meeting this morning, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Annual Report of PCUM's ministry in 2025; to act on the nomination of leaders; to act on the recommendation to approve the pastor's 2026 Terms of Call (compensation); and to review the 2026 church ministry budget as approved by Session. All active members of PCUM have voice and vote at the meeting—and are warmly encouraged to attend. Light lunch & childcare provided.



**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!** What are you doing this Wednesday?!? The Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m.—and YOU are invited! All teens and tweens 6th–8th grade are invited to come out to have fun and share dinner with friends. Contact youth directors Garrett Pahl ([garrett@pcum.org](mailto:garrett@pcum.org)) and/or Sierra Joy ([sierra@pcum.org](mailto:sierra@pcum.org)) for more information.

**VOLUNTEER TO SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS** – You are invited to join fellow PCUM volunteers serving hungry and food-insecure neighbors. **Sign up at** [pcum.org/serve-others](http://pcum.org/serve-others).

PCUM's Core Values:

*Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship* ✠ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth* ✠  
*Relationships* ✠ *Participation* ✠ *Service to Others and to the World* ✠ *Relevance and Authenticity*

The Presbyterian Church  
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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  
**Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader:** Sierra Joy  
**Co-Youth Leader:** Garrett Pahl  
**Church Administrator:** Denise Silecchia  
**Nursery/Toddler Room Attendant:** Taryn Ellis  
**Livestream Techs:** Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson  
**Custodian:** Jimmy Abad



## Journey Through Lent

**READING GENESIS – LENTEN THURSDAY LUNCHTIME ADULT STUDY** – Thursdays from 12noon – 1:30 p.m. during the Season of Lent, you are invited to join an Adult Study of popular author Marilynne Robinson’s New York Times bestseller *Reading Genesis*. From the classic creation-narratives describing the human relationship to God to the stories of God’s covenant with humanity and the first women and men to struggle with God’s call to faithful living, the Book of Genesis contains many voices from our ancestors in faith. Classes will be held through Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, and will be in-person at the church, with a remote option.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** *Sharing Resources. Changing Lives.* The PCUM worshipping family will receive the special One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Since 1949, OGHS gifts have supported ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

**DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS** – Remember or honor a loved one Easter Sunday by dedicating Easter Flowers that will adorn the sanctuary to give thanks to God and proclaim the Good News of God’s gift of new and abundant life in the resurrected Christ. Dedication forms are available in the Narthex. Each plant is \$15. **No flower orders can be received after Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am:** Join the procession waving palm branches and celebrating the coming Savior, even as the shadow of the cross—and the promise of resurrection—loom ahead. The story of Christ’s betrayal and passion is proclaimed through a dramatic reading by a number of gifted voices and special music presented by the Chancel Choir.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm:** Plan to take part in this meaningful Holy Week experience as the PCUM family gathers around the Lord’s Table to focus on the great love God of in Christ that sustains us even through the darkest times.

**EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS** on **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** will be at **9:00 am & 11:00 am**. There will be coffee and fellowship time between services in Fellowship Hall and PCUM’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:20 a.m. on the East Lawn (weather permitting).

**PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY, MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>** – Hey kids and parents! At 6:00 pm on Friday evening, March 20<sup>th</sup>, families with children 2nd grade & younger (older siblings are welcome!) are invited to a FREE evening of movie-watching, fellowship and fun for kids and families! Come, meet other PCUM parents while your children play with friends from Sunday School or the Nursery under the supervision of the Children’s Ministries staff. There will be pizza and salad for everyone, as well as a short child-friendly film screening. Please RSVP by Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to Millie Tourtelot at [millie@pcum.org](mailto:millie@pcum.org).

**SAVE THE DATE! PROGRESSIVE DINNER 2026 SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>!** –PCUM’s popular Progressive Dinner is back and scheduled for the evening of Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> (note the date change!) from 6:00 to 10:30 pm. The evening starts with everyone gathering at one home for appetizers and conversation, followed by groups of 6-8 hosted for dinner in separate homes, with the evening concluding with everyone gathered together again for dessert. The Progressive Dinner is a lot of fun and a great way to get to know your PCUM family even better. So mark your calendar and book your babysitter! If you’re new to PCUM or have never experienced the Progressive Dinner, you are especially welcome! More details coming soon!

**DEDICATE FLOWERS** – You can honor/memorialize loved ones by dedicating flowers for any Sunday morning worship service throughout the year. The suggested donation for two bouquets is \$80. Sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Deacons’ Corner.

**MONTCLAIR MUSIC CLUB (MMC)** hosts its next program here in the sanctuary, Monday morning, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:30 am, The program will feature the piano duo, Long Duo, and the Madison String Quartet. The Long Duo will be performing pieces by Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schoenfield, their own “Fantasy on the Ali Mountain,” and their arrangement of “America” from West Side Story. The Madison String Quartet will perform the Shostakovich String Quartet No. 8 and *El Diablo Suelto* by Fernandez. MMC is a wonderful partner in the PCUM community. Free and open to the public. Donations welcome.