

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, August 7, 2022

*If you are able, please stand.



10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

*"I knew a blind man whom a surgeon helped to see.
The doctor never had a lover such as he.
It is in such a way that singers love composers."*

- Calvin Miller, *The Singer Trilogy*



Prelude

It's Always Springtime in God's Heart

David Rimelis

David Rimelis, violin
Karen Merchant, piano

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 50)

Millie Tourtelot
Director of Christian Education

One: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
our God shines forth.**

Our God comes and does not keep silence,
speaking out of the devouring fire,
the Divine voice in the midst of the mighty tempest.

**God calls to the heavens above and to the earth,
God call to us: "Gather to me, my faithful ones!"**

Let us accept this invitation.
Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn 406** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

Geron Davis

Prayer of Preparation and Confession (unison)

Graham Bridgeman

God of hope, God of promise, God of selfless mercy: We confess that we do not always trust you enough to respond to your invitation. We confess that too often we decide to remain in the unhappiness that we or circumstances have created. We confess that our petty resentments and complaints keep us from stepping forward in faith. We would rather keep trying to create our own happiness, even when that route fails us again and again.

**God of mystery, because our separation from you is the cause,
we cannot understand our suffering and the suffering of others.
Forgive us when we ignore your voice and give up on you.
Speak and sing in our hearts again today. Restore us to right
relationship with you and with ourselves. Bring us home again.**

our silent prayers of preparation and confession

Hymn 288 (seated)

Spirit of the Living God

Daniel Iverson

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

***We Give God Glory**

*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

Pastor Greg Horn

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

Time for Children

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, children through 3rd grade may attend Sunday School in the North Wing.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (p.91 of NT) – **Luke 12:22-34** (NRSV)

²²He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³²'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading (p.273 of NT) – **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16** (NRSV)

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"A Fork in Every Road"

Pastor Greg Horn

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

We Worship With Our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

The Feeling of God

David Rimelis / Karen Merchant

Karen Merchant, voice David Rimelis, violin
Anne Marie Juliano, piano

*The feeling of God, a feeling we all know,
the feeling of God for each soul unique.*

*Some call it love, some call it peace,
or to know in your heart all is as it should be.
So far above, so deep within,
how to describe it, how to begin.*

*How many stars in the sky, how many drops in the sea,
the feeling of God is different for you and me,
So many moments in time, each one is waiting to be,
the love of God will set you free.*

*The feeling of God, I know I don't understand,
although I try, I am filled with awe,
I sense God is near and all is well,
so I rejoice each moment I have the feeling of God.*

***We Give Praise to God**

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.*

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

spiritual

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

Prayer after Communion

***Closing Hymn 536** *Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen*

Surge Ecclesia

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

God Before Breakfast

David Rimelis

David Rimelis, fiddle

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

† † † † † † † † †

*The flowers decorating the chancel this morning are given in celebration of
the 30th anniversary of Blaire Rzempoluch's 29th birthday.*

*"But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)*

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. You are warmly invited outside on the East Lawn immediately following this morning's service for refreshments and conversation.

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

CHILD CARE 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.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children through 3rd grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for help finding classrooms.

LORD'S SUPPER TODAY – Today we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, also known as communion or the eucharist (*thanksgiving*). In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Lord's Supper is the sign and seal (assurance) of God's grace in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At the table, Presbyterians trust that God's Holy Spirit, rather than our effort, brings us into Christ's real Presence, nourishes us in hope and sends us out to share in God's work in the world. All are welcome come acknowledging our brokenness and seeking reconciliation with God and each other. Children who are being nurtured in the significance of the Lord's Supper—at their level of understanding and with parental/ guardian permission—are invited to share in communion. Welcome.

SUPPORT THE DEACONS' MINISTRY - On the first Sunday of each month, the PCUM family can offer support to the Deacons' ministries of compassion, care, and community-building. Please use the green envelopes in the pew racks, you can mail your check to the church, or you can click on "Give" at pcum.org and specify "Deacons' Fund." Thank you!

YOU CAN VOLUNTEER! HELP FEED & SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS: Saturday dates are available for you (and your family) to join other volunteers from the PCUM family to serve hungry neighbors here in Montclair on the 1st Saturday the month—and in Newark on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Prepare food, serve meals, and sing and/or play music for guests. **Sign up at** <http://www.pcum.org/serve-others/local-opportunities-to-serve-homeless-neighbors>. A life-changing experience!

PLEASE GIVE CATCHING UP OR PAYING AHEAD ON YOUR PLEDGE as the warmer summer season approaches. As the PCUM ministry moves out of the pandemic and prepares for a full program year starting in September, your financial support of your church's ministries in the weeks and months ahead is a precious gift to your church's health. Thank you for your generous giving & dedication at this important time!

SIGN UP TO DEDICATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP – You can honor loved ones and beautifully the PCUM family's worship experience by dedicating flowers for Sunday morning worship service on any Sunday throughout the year. The suggested donation for two standard bouquets is \$80; dedications appear in the bulletin. Sign up using the Flower Calendar in the Deacons' Corner or at www.pcum.org.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL – WILL YOU HELP? Summer Sunday School is for children ages 3 through 3rd grade. **Teachers are needed** for one or several Sundays through September 4th. All the supplies you need to make this a fun experience for you and the kids are provided, and training is available. If you would like to share your gifts and your time with the children of your church on one or more summer Sundays, please contact Christian Education Elder Laurie Kroll at annielgk@aol.com, or Pastor Greg Horn (greghorn@pcum.org) or the church office at pcum@pcum.org.

PCUM IS "MASK OPTIONAL" – Following local Montclair ordinances, PCUM is worshipping and sharing in fellowship and ministry with a "mask optional" policy. Worshipers and all participating in on-site church activities will decide whether or not to wear a mask and be encouraged to value each other's choices and health by maintaining social distance wherever possible.



PCUM's *Core Values*:

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



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