



First United Methodist Church of Riverside (<https://firstchurchriverside.org>)

July 12, 2020, 10 a.m.: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship (Livestream)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP ONLINE:

<https://facebook.com/firstchurchriverside/>

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: *"Partita on Azmon"* (by Mark Brampton Smith)/ Robert Phillips, Organist

TRINITY BELLS / Robert Phillips, Organist

OPENING HYMN: #57 *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"* (Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7)/
All (Led by Peggy McMeans; Accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he
5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

WELCOME / Rev. J. T. Kim, Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Liturgies adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020)* / Lyn Knowles, Liturgist

(Liturgist) You are the Sower, O God, we are the seed.

(All) God's word is being sown in our lives this day with the promise of new growth.

(L) You are the Lover, O God, we are the beloved.

(All) God's love blossoms in our lives with a beauty greater than the lilies of the field.

(L) You are the Healer, O God, we are the healed.

(All) God's healing flows through our lives with every beat of our heart.

(L) You are the Potter, O God, we are the clay.

(All) God's hand fashions us to shine with the glory of Christ's light.

(L) Come! Let us worship the one who sows us in fields of love.

(All) Amen!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER / Pastor J. T. Kim

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) / All

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME / Lyn Knowles

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:1-11 (NRSV) / Lyn Knowles, Liturgist

Life in the Spirit

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

(Liturgist) This is the Word of God for the People of God!

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "O Lord, Whose Mercies Numberless" (from "Saul" by George Frederick Handel)/ Peggy McMeans, Soloist (Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:1-23 (NRSV) / Lyn Knowles, Liturgist

The Parable of the Sower

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!'

The Purpose of the Parables

¹⁰Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' ¹¹He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹²For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³The reason I speak to them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand." ¹⁴With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

"You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn —
and I would heal them."

¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷Truly I tell

you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

18¹Hear then the parable of the sower. 19¹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20¹As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22¹As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23¹But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

(Liturgist) This is the Word of Christ!

(All) Glory to You, O Christ!

SERMON: "PARABLES BY THE SEA #1: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Senior Pastor

HYMN OF DEDICATION: #2158 "Just a Closer Walk to Thee" / All (Led by Peggy McMeans; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)



1. I am weak, but thou art strong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares,
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,



Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
time for me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.



Refrain
Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Pastor J. T. Kim

(Pastor) Like a field ready for harvest, our lives bear the marks of God's love and care. May we, who bear the fruit of God's labor, rejoice as people who have been blessed with a bounty not of our making. With love and thanksgiving, let us bring our tithes and offerings to those in need.

(All) Amen!

- Online Giving: <https://www.firstchurchriverside.org/giving/>
- Mail To: First United Methodist Church, 4845 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA 92506;
- You can also drop off your offering envelope into the church office mail slot;
- Or please consider automatic draft through your bank.
- Thank you for being faithful to God through our Church!

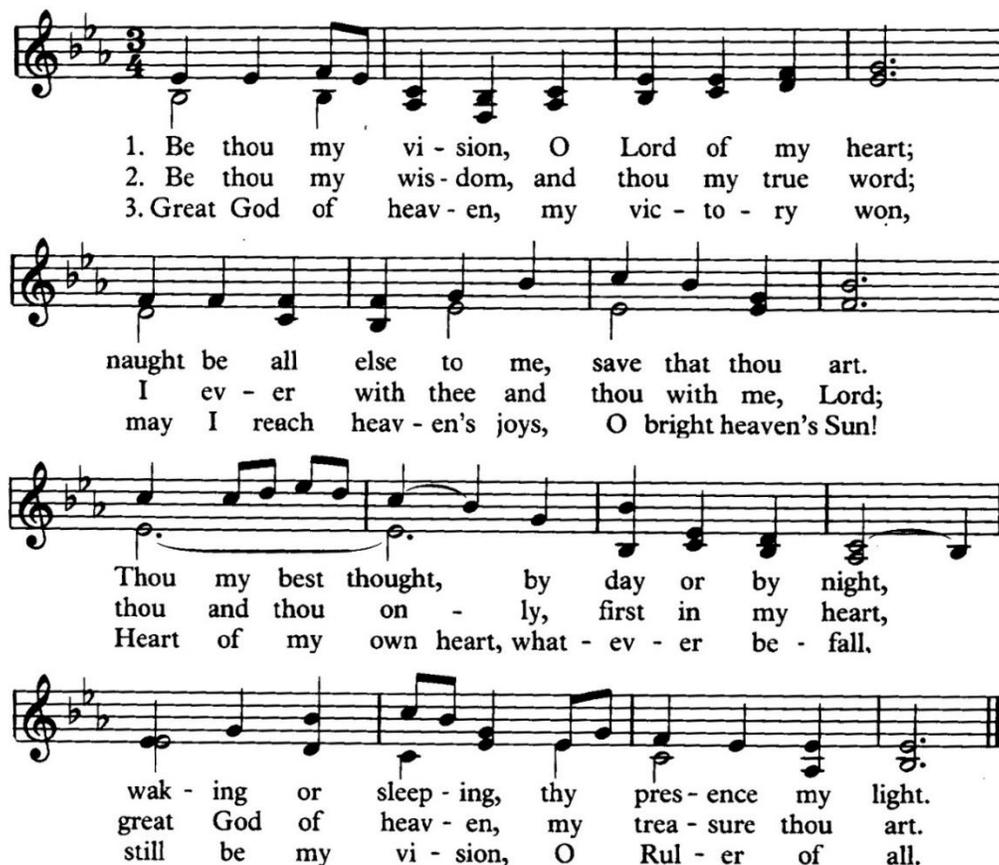
DOXOLOGY: #95 / All

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON) / All (Led by Pastor J. T. Kim)

Master Gardener, as you have sown our lives in a rich and fertile soil, may we bear much fruit through our giving. With these offerings, may your realm be brought to earth, as we plant seeds of hope in the fields of life. Bless our gifts and our ministry, that the world may reap a harvest of generosity and love. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #451 "Be Thou My Vision" / All (Led by Peggy McMeans; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall.

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

BENEDICTION / Pastor J. T. Kim

POSTLUDE: *"Toccatà on Azmon"* (by David Cherwien)/ Robert Phillips, Organist

God Bless You! Stay in Love with God!



*(Our Big Thanks to the Worship/Media Team who have faithfully served today:
Lyn Knowles, Peggy McMeans, Robert Phillips, Dan Lonsbery, and Cassie Lonsbery)*

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