



First United Methodist Church of Riverside, Hosting Church
The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor; Loretta Cudney & Mimi Luker, Co-Lay Leaders
February 17, 2021: Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion
Attending Churches: Corona UMC (Pastor Eric Schmidt) &
Wesley UMC (Pastor Langi Lolohea)
ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP ONLINE (Livestream): 7 p.m.
<https://facebook.com/firstchurchriverside/live>

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE : *"Choral Dorian"* (by Jehan Alain) / Robert Phillips, Organist

TRINITY BELLS

WELCOME / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Joel 2, 2 Cor 5*) / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist
(Liturgist) A trumpet sounds from afar.

(All) Listen, God is calling.

(L) What does the Lord say to us?

(All) Now is the time. Today is the day.

(L) Now is the time to return to God.

(All) Today is the day of our salvation.

(L) Our sins cover us like mist upon the mountains.

(All) But you, Lord, have shown us your forgiveness.

(L) Praise our God of grace and constant compassion!

(All) Thanks be to our Lord! Amen!

OPENING HYMN: UMH #269 *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”* (verses 1 & 2 only) (by Claudia F. Hernaman) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)

Verse 1

**Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins
And close by thee to stay.**

Verse 2

**As thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
In thee to conquer sin.**

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON): UMH #353 (Ash Wednesday) / All (Led by Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor)

O God, maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (NRSV) / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist
A Call to Repentance and Prayer

**¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near –
² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.
¹² Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation;**

assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (NRSV) / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist
The Ministry of Reconciliation

^{20b}[W]e entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

HYMN: UMH #269 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (verses 3 & 4 only) (by Claudia F. Hernaman) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)

Verse 3

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live

By thy most holy word.

Verse 4

And through these days of penitence,
And through thy passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NRSV) / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist

Concerning Almsgiving

¹Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Prayer

⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Fasting

¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Treasures

¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

(All) Glory to You, O Christ! Amen!

MUSIC INTERLUDE: "*God So Loved the World*" (by John Stainer; Arranged by Carl Fredrickson) / Yvonne Flagg, Soloist (Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

SERMON: "MEMENTO MORI" / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PSALM 51 IN SONG: "*Create in Me a Clean Heart*" / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)

G D C
 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O

G C/D G D Dsus D
 God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in

G C/D 1.G 2.G7
 me. Cre -

C G/C D Dsus⁴/₂ D G Gsus
 Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, O

G C G/C D
 Lord, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from

G G7 C G/C
 me. Re - store un - to

D G D/F# Em
 me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion,

C D Dsus D G
 and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

PARDON

(Pastor) May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner, but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

(All) Amen!

SIGNS OF YOUR MORTALITY AND REPENTANCE

- (1) Self-Imposition of Ashes
- (2) An Hourglass
- (3) "Memento Mori"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Romans 14:8-9)

(Pastor) If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

(All) For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Amen!

INVITATION TO "40-DAYS OF KINDNESS"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist

Jesus points out in tonight's Gospel that **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."** I invite you to give your heart-felt "Ash Wednesday Special Offering" to your church via your standard method. Your offerings are very much appreciated in helping the people in need within the congregation and in the community. Thank you so much for being faithful to God through your church!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist)
We bring our gifts, our hearts, and our very lives to you, O God. Bless these gifts, these hearts, these lives, that we offer to you and to the world in your holy name. Send us forth as your holy people to bless others with hearts wide open with love. Amen!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (ASH WEDNESDAY)

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(All) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(All) We lift them up to the Lord.

(Pastor) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(All) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things

into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth, you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(All Sing) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Elise Eslinger
(after NICAEA)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts on a middle C and moves stepwise up to a G4, then has a triplet of eighth notes (A4, B4, C5) leading to a half note D5. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.' are aligned under the notes. The second line continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes (D5, E5, F5) and then a half note G5. The lyrics 'Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the' are aligned under the notes. The third line continues with a half note A5, a quarter note B5, and a quarter note C6. The lyrics 'high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the' are aligned under the notes. The fourth line concludes with a half note D6, a quarter note E6, and a quarter note F6. The lyrics 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' are aligned under the notes. A fermata is placed over the final note, F6.

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(Pastor) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All Sing) Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.



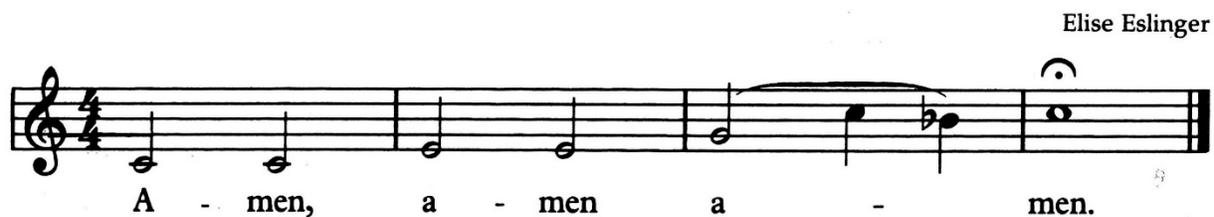
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(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

(All Sing) Amen.



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THE LORD'S PRAYER (Video) / Hannah Arguelles

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

(Please take your Bread and Cup now at your home)

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: UMH #269 *"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"* (verse 5 only) (by Claudia F. Hernaman) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)

Verse 5

**Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (Adapted from 2 Cor 6) / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor
(Pastor) Though we were overwhelmed by sorrow,
(All) we can rejoice in Christ.
(Pastor) Though we were dead,
(All) we are alive in Christ.
(Pastor) Though we had nothing,
(All) we possess everything in Christ.
(Pastor) In Christ, the day of deliverance has dawned!
(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (Opus 122, No. 9)*” (by Johannes Brahms)
/ Robert Phillips, Organist

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TONIGHT’S WORSHIP LEADERS & MEDIA/LIVESTREAM TEAM

Liturgist: Yvonne Flagg

Hymn Leader & Interlude: Yvonne Flagg

Organist: Robert Phillips

Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

Media Team: Dan Lonsbery, Cassie Lonsbery, Gayla Lonsbery, & Steve Grimes

Décor Ministry Team: Rev. Bev Devine and Team

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