



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

March 14, 2021: Fourth Sunday in Lent;

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) Sunday

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP ONLINE (Livestream): 10:00 AM

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: *"Variations on a Hymn for Lent"* (by Dale Wood) / Robert Phillips, Organist

TRINITY BELLS / Robert Phillips, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP / Mateo Mamea, Liturgist

(Liturgist) God brought us to life with Christ.

ALL: God so loved the world.

(L) God is rich in mercy.

ALL: God sent us Jesus.

(L) You are saved by God's grace.

ALL: We are created for good works. Amen!

(Adapted from the 2021 UMCOR Sunday Liturgy Resource from The United Methodist Church)

OPENING HYMN: #176 *"Majesty, Worship His Majesty"* (by Jack Hayford, music arr. by Eugene Thomas) / All (Led by Kathleen Phillips; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

**Majesty, worship his majesty;
unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
flow from his throne unto his own;
his anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.**

**Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.**

WELCOME / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER / Rev. J. T. Kim

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

UNISON PRAYER (UMCOR Sunday) / All (Led by Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor)

God of immeasurable grace, you meet us in our time of need and cause your face to shine upon us. You sent your Son into the world, that we might be saved; and you fashioned us into vessels of your love and light. Redeem us this day, O God, that we may be found worthy of the one who came to bring us life. Move us out of the shadows to respond to Christ's truth. On this UMCOR Sunday, illuminate hope in the midst of disaster, illuminate love in the midst of fear, and illuminate peace in the midst of violence. Amen!

(Adapted from the 2021 UMCOR Sunday Liturgy Resource from The United Methodist Church)

CHILDREN'S TIME / Mateo Mamea

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV) / Mateo Mamea, Liturgist

The Bronze Serpent

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "St. Patrick's Breastplate" (Music by Frédéric Chopin; words attributed to St. Patrick, translated by Cecil Frances Alexander) / Kathleen Phillips, Soloist; Accompanied by Robert Phillips

GOSPEL READING: John 3:14-21 (NRSV) / Mateo Mamea, Liturgist

Jesus To Be Lifted Up

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "THE BRONZE SERPENT AND THE CROSS OF CHRIST" / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

HYMN OF DEDICATION: #159 "Lift High the Cross" (words by George W. Kitchin and Michael R. Newbolt, music by Sydney H. Nicholson) / All (Led by Kathleen Phillips; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Verse 1

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. [Refrain]

Verse 2

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

Verse 3

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]

Verse 4

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Mateo Mamea, Liturgist

(Liturgist) From God's immeasurable grace, we have been saved by faith. In thankfulness for this mighty gift, let us give thanks to the Lord and offer God homage, as we offer back our tithes and our offerings.

(All) Amen!

DOXOLOGY #95 / All (Led by Kathleen Phillips, Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

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 THANKSGIVING (UNISON) / All (Led by Mateo Mamea, Liturgist)

God of light and love, as Jesus shined your light into our troubled world, may our offering bring rays of your holy light into the dark corners of our world. May these gifts reach the places where the fear of death holds sway, that others may find Christ's life in the midst of their pain. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: #2088 "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (by Rick Founds) / All (Led by Kathleen Phillips; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

**Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth
To show the way,
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

(Pastor) God sends us forth with the immeasurable gift of faith.

(All) We will live in the joy of our salvation.

(Pastor) God sends us forth to walk in the light of holy love.

(All) We will walk in the light of Christ.

(Pastor) God sends us forth in spirit and in truth.

(All) We will journey in the Spirit's tender mercies.

(Pastor) Go with the blessings of God.

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Lift High the Cross" (by John Leavitt) / Robert Phillips, Organist

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God Bless You! Stay in Love with God!



(Our Big Thanks to the Worship/Media Team members who have faithfully served today:

Organist: Robert Phillips

Hymn Leader & Soloist: Kathleen Phillips

Liturgist: Mateo Mamea

Children's Time: Mateo Mamea

*Media/Livestream Team: Dan Lonsbery, Cassie Lonsbery, Gayla Lonsbery,
and Steve Grimes*

Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

Altar Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine and the Décor Team)

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