



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

May 2, 2021: Fifth Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion Sunday

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

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: *"Abide With Me"* (by Dale Wood) / Robert Phillips, Organist

TRINITY BELLS / Robert Phillips, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from 1 John 4, John 15) / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.

(All) We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.

(L) Come to love one another, for love is of God.

(All) We have come to the household of love, for God is love.

(L) Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.

(All) We have come to love one another, as God has loved us.

(L) Come! All are welcome here.

(All) Amen!

OPENING HYMN: #397 *"I Need Thee Every Hour"* (Verses 1, 3 and 5 only) (Words by Annie S. Hawks; Music by Robert Lowry) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

**I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.**

Refrain

I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

Verse 3

I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
[Refrain]

Verse 5

I need thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.
[Refrain]

WELCOME / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER / Rev. J. T. Kim
Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

CHILDREN'S TIME / Yvonne Flagg

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-17 (NRSV) / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist
Jesus the True Vine

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made

known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

INTERLUDE: *"Hymn of Grateful Praise (For the Beauty of the Earth)"* (Lyrics by Folliott S. Pierpoint; Music: English Folksong ("Scarborough Fair"), Conrad Kocher; arrangement ©2015 by Sally DeFord) / Kris Lovekin, Soloist; Accompanied by Robert Phillips

SERMON: "HOW TO LIVE A FRUIT-BEARING LIFE" / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

HYMN OF DEDICATION: #700 "Abide with Me" (Verses 1, 3 and 4 only) (Words by Henry F. Lyte; Music by W. H. Monk) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Verse 3

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Verse 4

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Hear these words from Jesus, God's gift of love to us: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." Jesus was sent by God to offer us new life. In love, let us respond to God's heart with our gratitude and generosity.

(All) Amen!

HOW TO GIVE:

- Online: Please click www.firstchurchriverside.org/giving
- Scan: This QR code (shown below) will lead you to our church website's eGiving page (it's handy if you use your smart phone).



- Mail: To First UMC of Riverside, 4845 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA 92506.
- Drop Off: Please use the church's mail slot.
- Automatic Draft: Please set it up through your bank, if you have not done so yet.

Thank you so much for being faithful to God through our Church!

DOXOLOGY #95 *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* / All (Led by Kris Lovekin, 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 Yvonne Flagg, Liturgist)
**Bountiful God, you fill the poor with good things and cause the hungry to be satisfied.
May these gifts be instruments of your grace and may our very lives be the means of
spreading your blessings. Make these gifts be for the world a sign of your boundless love
and your overflowing abundance. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION (Adapted from 1 John 4, John 15)
(Pastor) Come to the table of grace, for Christ is the vine, and we are the branches.
(All) Come, Holy Spirit, come.
(Pastor) Come to the table of love, for whoever does not love, does not know God.
(All) Come, Holy Spirit, come.
(Pastor) Come to the table of blessing, for Christ is here to abide in us, as we abide in him.
(All) Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(All) Loving Shepherd, you lead us along right paths and give us abundant life. Still, we resist your call. We want to be in control; we wish to determine our own direction. Forgive us when we ignore your voice and turn away. Bring us back into your fold through the gates of your redeeming love. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

PARDON

(Pastor) Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(All) In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(All) Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) Christ be with you.

(All) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(All) We lift them up to God.

(Pastor) Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

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

(Pastor) It is a right, good, and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give our thanks to you, who has raised Christ from the dead, and who has given us the promise of new life in his name. We give you thanks for the Risen Christ who has given us the power for healing, forgiveness, and new life. And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(All Singing)

Elise Eslinger
(after NICAEA)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, offered thanks and gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in 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 your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All Singing)

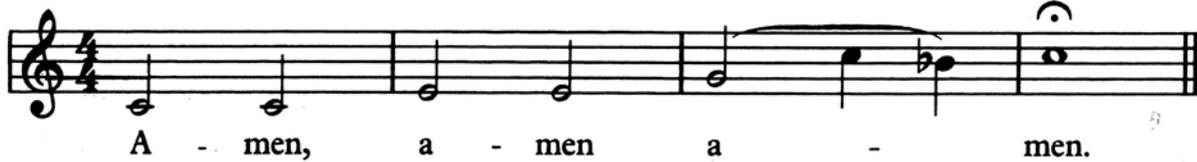
Elise Eslinger

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

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(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for all who yearn for new life. God of newness and mystery, God of wonder and love, God of resurrection and new life; we praise your name and rejoice in our life in you.

(All Singing)



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Pastor) And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

(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. Amen.

SHARING OF 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: #2076 "O Blessed Spring" (Verses 1, 2 and 5 only) (Words by Susan Palo Cherwien,; Music trad. English melody; Adapt. by Hal H. Hopson) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

**O blessed spring where Word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree.**

Verse 2

**Through summer heat and youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.**

Verse 5

**Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery:
that Word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (Adapted from 1 John 4, John 15) / Led by Rev. J. T. Kim
(Pastor) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

(All) We will be born of love each day of our lives.

(Pastor) Beloved, let us abide in Christ's love, for he is the vine and we are the branches.

(All) We will grow as Christ's disciples and bear fruit for a world in need.

(Pastor) Beloved, let us care for one another, for the Spirit helps us abide in God's peace.

(All) We will glorify God in the lives we lead. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "O Filii et Filiae" (By Jean François Dandrieu) / 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:

Liturgist & Children's Time: Yvonne Flagg

Organist: Robert Phillips

Hymn Leader & Soloist: Kris Lovekin

Communion Coordinator: Lee Ann Salmon

*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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