

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; INDEPENDENCE DAY; HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY



SUNDAY WORSHIP (IN-PERSON & ONLINE)

First United Methodist Church of Riverside (<https://firstchurchriverside.org>)
July 4, 2021: 6th Sunday after Pentecost; Independence Day; Holy Communion Sunday
ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE AT 10:00 AM
<https://facebook.com/firstchurchriverside/live>

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE: *"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"* (By Emma Lou Diemer) / Robert Phillips,
Organist

TRINITY BELLS / Robert Phillips, Organist

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Adapted from Psalm 48, 2 Cor 12) / Lyn Knowles, Liturgist

(Liturgist) When winds tear into our vessels,

(People) God's grace will be our guide.

(Liturgist) When insecurities mount up within our souls,

(People) God's strength will be our guide.

(Liturgist) When hardships weaken our resolve,

(People) God's mercy will be our guide.

(Liturgist) When insults rip and slander stains,

(People) God's courage will be our guide.

(Liturgist) When vulnerability saps our faith,

(People) God's presence will be our guide.

(Liturgist) Come, let us worship God!

(All) Amen!

***OPENING HYMN:** #89 *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* (Verses 1, 3 & 4 only)

(Words by Henry Van Dyke; Music by Ludwig van Beethoven; arr. by Edward Hodges) /

All (Led by Phil Bremenstuhl, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

Verse 3

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Verse 4

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

WELCOME / Rev. J. T. Kim

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

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

CHILDREN'S TIME / Lyn Knowles

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (NRSV) / Lyn Knowles, Liturgist
My Grace Is Sufficient for You

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—
whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that

such a person – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows – ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "A Simple Song" (By Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Schwartz; Text: Psalm 95:1-3 and Psalm 96:1-3) / Phil Bremenstuhl, Soloist; Accompanied by Robert Phillips

SERMON: "THE THORNS OF LIFE" / Rev. J. T. Kim

***HYMN OF DEDICATION:** #400 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Words by Robert Robinson; Music: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*) / All (Led by Phil Bremenstuhl; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

Verse 2

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Lyn Knowles, Liturgist

(Liturgist) God calls us to serve and invites us to give. Knowing that God will be guiding us, and that God will be leading us, let us claim the generosity of God. In our celebration of this bounty, we share our treasures, talents, and time with the church and community.

(All) Amen!

HOW TO GIVE / Lyn Knowles

- 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 Phil Bremenstuhl, 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 Lyn Knowles, Liturgist)**
Despite the sufferings and challenges on our journeys, your power transcends human weakness. We celebrate your generosity by sharing treasures, talents, and time along our way. No matter where we travel or which hardships we face, we sing your name in every corner of the earth. With our songs of praise, we share our gifts with your creation. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

INVITATION

(Pastor) Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Creator, we have refused to give our neighbors the honor they deserve. We have rejected others, as Jesus was rejected before us. Status drives us. Gossip lures us. Reputations gain more traction than the entirety of the person in front of us. We choose chaos over kindness, and disconnection over spiritual bonds. May our hearts repent, returning to your voice. May our souls reconnect, returning to our neighbor. May our minds renew, returning to the ones you created us to be. May your grace abound. 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!

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

(All) Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(People) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(People) We lift them up to God.

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

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

(Pastor) In our times of victory or vulnerability, there are seats for us all. Regardless of our painful pasts, the thorns in our bodies, or the insults plunged into our souls, there are places for each of us at this meal.

No matter which neighbor or kin have turned their backs on us, no matter how many tears have fallen from our eyes, we each are welcome here. At this meal, we once again find our strength. At the table of Christ, we renew our energy.

(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.

Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

(Pastor) The night before Jesus faced rejection and desertion, persecution and insults, he joined with friends to share a meal. This meal fed Jesus, not only in body, but also in mind and soul.

“Remember me,” he instructed his companions. “Remember me,” he spoke, as he shared the bread and cup. In this time and space, as God’s Spirit encircles us, Christ continues to abide with us.

(All Singing)

Elise Eslinger



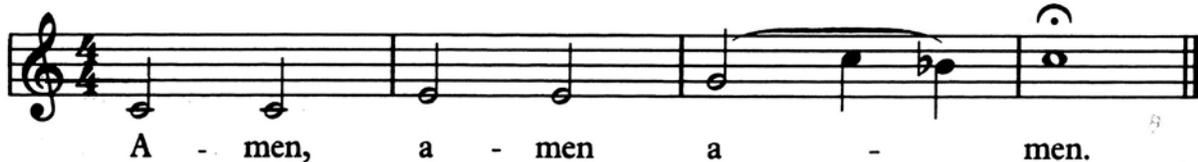
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(Pastor) Christ stirs us to widen the table, nudging us to add a chair, or to take this feast to someone missing today. And as we expand the sacred meal of Christ, we remember him.

We remember the night he celebrated with friends. We remember the day he was rejected and deserted. We remember the morning he emerged from the tomb. And we find our strength in his resurrection.

(All Singing)

Elise Eslinger



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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 communion elements now - here in the sanctuary or 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.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Lyn Knowles, Liturgist

***SENDING HYMN: #696 "America the Beautiful"** (Words by Katharine Lee Bates; Music by Samuel A. Ward) / All (Led by Phil Bremenstuhl; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

Verse 2

O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and every gain divine.

Verse 3

O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION:** (Adapted from 2 Cor 12, Mark 6) / Led by Rev. J. T. Kim

(Pastor) Go where God leads you.

(People) We go to serve and to love.

(Pastor) Go where Christ calls you.

(People) We go to lead and to guide.

(Pastor) Go with the power of the Holy Spirit.

(People) We go to share God's power with all.

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: *“The Stars and Stripes Forever”* (By John Philip Sousa, arranged by E. Power Biggs) / Robert Phillips, Organist

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God Bless You! Stay in Love with God!



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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

Liturgist & Children's Time: Lyn Knowles

Interlude & Hymn Leader: Phil Bremenstuhl

Organist: Robert Phillips

Media/Livestream Team: Dan Lonsbery, Cassie Lonsbery, and Gayla Lonsbery

Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

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

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