



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost;
Worship with the Rev. Beverly Devine, Preaching

Sunday Worship (In-Person & Online)

August 29, 2021, 10 a.m. @ First UMC of Riverside

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

August 29, 2021: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE AT 10:00 AM

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

(Audio Only: To listen to Sunday Livestreaming - Call 1-877-755-5136)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE: *"Gift of Love"* (By Emma Lou Diemer) / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS** / Robert Phillips, Organist

***OPENING HYMN:** #2025 *"As the Deer"* (By Martin J. Nystrom) (2 Times) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

**As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Based on Psalm 84:1-4) / Cindy Qualtieri, Liturgist
(Leader) How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

(All) My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

(Leader) Is this truly your heart's cry -- to dwell in the presence of the Lord?

(All) Let it be true and let us worship him!

(Leader) Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

(All) Receive our worship, O God. We are so grateful to be in your presence today.

(All) How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

WELCOME / Rev. Beverly Devine

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys

Birthdays

Jean Grout 8/29

Chalmer Tomlinson 8/29

Lou Santino 8/30

Stan Cook 8/31

Elizabeth Davis 9/1

Michael Othon 9/1

Anniversaries

Linda & Robert Hice 9/3 (42nd)

Concerns

Connie Taylor's Family

Jordan (Pam Conlin's Nephew)

Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer / Rev. Beverly Devine

Gracious and Loving Creator, we know the whole world is your sanctuary, and you are present at every roadside altar we build. We know your voice is heard from mountaintop to mountaintop, and your mighty reach spans all horizons. We humbly bow our hearts and raise our voices in praise of you!

We feel your spirit in this place where saints and sinners have knelt and prayed, wept and laughed, listened to the word and responded. Here burdens have been lifted, torches rekindled and doors opened.

Here we have been forgiven and discovered love enough to make life meaningful. Surely this place is holy ground, so here with bended knee and contrite hearts, we seek your presence.

Soon we return to the real world, and there is pain in every life, unfulfilled dreams on every journey, stumbling blocks and detours on every road. Often emotions clash within us, and there is no clear word for tomorrow. So, in these moments in sanctuary, prepare us for the rising and setting of each new day by showing us faith and trust.

O God, teach us to laugh, give us wisdom to worry less and trust more. Help us discover the difference between values which are real and dreams which are often illusive. Show us the best way, not necessarily the most easy or expedient way. Help us express kindness to those in need and give us courage to seek justice for the oppressed. Give us enough patience to try on someone else's sandals before we criticize. And now, O God, hear our words of praise and accept our celebrations of gratitude for your love and mighty words through Jesus, who taught us to 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME / Cindy Qualtieri

***SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 84** (NRSV) / Cindy Qualtieri, Liturgist

The Joy of Worship in the Temple

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,

 O Lord of hosts!

² My soul longs, indeed it faints

 for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy

 to the living God.

³ Even the sparrow finds a home,

 and the swallow a nest for herself,

 where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O Lord of hosts,

 my King and my God.

⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,

 ever singing your praise. *Selah*

⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,

 in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca

 they make it a place of springs;

 the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength;

 the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸ O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;

 give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*

⁹ Behold our shield, O God;

 look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better

 than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

 than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;

 he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the Lord withhold

 from those who walk uprightly.

¹² O Lord of hosts,

 happy is everyone who trusts in you.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "*Give Thanks*" (By Henry Smith) / Bell Ensemble

EPISTLE READING: James 1:17-27 (NRSV) / Cindy Qualtieri, Liturgist

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Hearing and Doing the Word

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

SERMON: "Reflections" / Rev. Beverly Devine

***HYMN OF DEDICATION:** #408 "*The Gift of Love*" (Words by Hal Hopson; Music: traditional English melody; adapt. by Hal Hopson) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Verse 2

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Verse 3

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Cindy Qualtieri, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Every generous act of giving, like every perfect gift, is from above. Having heard God's call to care for others, we respond. Let us not be hearers who forget, but doers who act, and so we will be blessed in our doing.

(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!

***OFFERING SONG: #2036 "Give Thanks" (By Henry Smith) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg, Accompanied by Robert Phillips)**

Refrain

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son

Verse

And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us

Ending

Give thanks

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / All (Led by Cindy Qualtieri, Liturgist)**
Gracious and generous God of light, may the offering we bring before you this day testify to who we are and whose we are. And may the gifts of our hands reflect the bounty of your harvest in our lives. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Mimi Luker, Co-Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #593 "Here I Am, Lord" (By Dan Schutte) / All (Led by Yvonne Flagg; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)**

Verse 1

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Verse 2

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

[Refrain]

Verse 3

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

[Refrain]

*** BENEDICTION**

Postlude: "Toccata" (By Douglas E. Wagner) / Robert Phillips, Organist

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God Bless You!



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

Liturgist: Cindy Qualtieri

Hymn Leader: Yvonne Flagg

Organist: Robert Phillips

Interlude: Greg Laird, Sue Tomlinson, Jason Handen, Carmen Lonsbery and Gayla Lonsbery

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

Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

Laity Blessings: Mimi Luker, Co-Lay Leader

Altar Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine and the Décor Team

Head Usher: Matt Gorder

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