



Holy Communion Sunday

Sunday Worship (In-Person & Online)

15th Sunday after Pentecost; Labor Day Sunday

First United Methodist Church of Riverside (<https://firstchurchriverside.org>)
September 5, 2021: 15th Sunday after Pentecost; Labor Day Sunday; Holy Communion Sunday
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: *"Bicinium, Pastorale, and Gigue on 'O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing'"* (By Paul Bouman) / Robert Phillips, Organist

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Adapted from Proverbs 22, Psalm 125, James 2) / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Those who trust in the Lord shall never be shaken.

(People) Those who place their faith in God stand on firm foundations.

(Liturgist) Just as mountains surround Jerusalem, God's love and mercy surround God's people.

(People) Just as rivers flow through mountain ravines, God's mercy and compassion flow through us.

(Liturgist) Come! Let us worship the One who brings us peace.

(All) Amen!

***OPENING HYMN:** #57 *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"* (Verses 1, 2, 3, & 7) (Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Carl G. Gläser, arr. by Lowell Mason) / All (Led by Phil Bremenstuhl)

Verse 1

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

Verse 2

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

Verse 3

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

Verse 7

In Christ, your head, you then shall know,
shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below,
and own that love is heaven.

WELCOME / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

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

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Labor Day Sunday)

O God, you have bound us together in this life. Give us grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, the industry, the honesty, and the integrity of all who labor. May we be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Written by Reinhold Niebuhr; adapted from The United Methodist Book of Worship, #443 "Labor Day")

CHILDREN'S TIME / Loretta Cudney

SCRIPTURE READING: James 2:14-26 (CEB) / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

Faith without Actions Is Dead

¹⁴My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? ¹⁵Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. ¹⁶What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? ¹⁷In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

¹⁸ Someone might claim, "You have faith and I have action." But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action. ¹⁹ It's good that you believe that God is one. Ha! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble with fear. ²⁰ Are you so slow? Do you need to be shown that faith without actions has no value at all? ²¹ What about Abraham, our father? Wasn't he shown to be righteous through his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² See, his faith was at work along with his actions. In fact, his faith was made complete by his faithful actions. ²³ So the scripture was fulfilled that says, *Abraham believed God, and God regarded him as righteous*. What is more, Abraham was called God's friend. ²⁴ So you see that a person is shown to be righteous through faithful actions and not through faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute shown to be righteous when she received the messengers as her guests and then sent them on by another road? ²⁶ As the lifeless body is dead, so faith without actions is dead.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "The Lord Is My Light" (Psalm 27:1-5) (By Frances Allitsen) / Phil Bremenstuhl, Soloist; Accompanied by Robert Phillips

SERMON: "FAITH AND LABOR OF LOVE" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #363 "And Can It Be that I Should Gain" (Verses 1, 3, & 5 only)
(Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Thomas Campbell) / All (Led by Phil Bremenstuhl)

Verse 1

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior's blood!
Died he for me? who caused his pain!
For me? who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Verse 3

He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for O my God, it found out me!

Verse 5

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th' eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(Liturgist) The Lord is Creator of all and the Giver of every good gift. Let us offer to God a portion of these gifts, that all needs may be met, and that all people may come to know the grace and joy of God.

(All) Amen!

HOW TO GIVE / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

- 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 Loretta Cudney, Liturgist)**
Gracious God, thank you for these gifts. We offer them to you and ask that you bless them, that all may have food, clothing, and shelter. We also offer you our very lives, asking that you bless us and use us, that all may come to know your steadfast love and your unending grace. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

INVITATION

(Pastor) God loves us – each and every one of us – with his amazing love shown on the cross of Christ. We all are invited to Christ’s table of grace and mercy. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(All) Forgiving God, there are many times when we are content to rest in your word – your words of assurance, your words of comfort, your words of abundant grace. Guide us to the places most in need of your love. Guide us to the opportunities most in need of our actions of care. Forgive us for our times of inaction. Forgive us when we quote the words of faith but fail to live them. For your mercy and grace, we thank you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

(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 the Lord.

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

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

(Pastor) With boundless joy, we give thanks to you, O God of our Creation. From that first spark of life and Spirit: you set the cosmos in motion, you breathed life into humanity, you brought light into the world. Your love amazes us, for even when our love turns to doubt or fear, your love is constant and sure.

You delivered our ancestors in faith from captivity, and you deliver us daily from the bonds that prevent us from living as people created in your image. You freed your people and made a covenant to be present always. You have spoken to us through prophets and you speak truth to us through one another.

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

**(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 the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(Pastor) Nurturing God, your greatest gift to us is the grace we know through Jesus Christ. Your Spirit descended on him and was manifest in his ministry. Through his teachings and example, you showed us how to be with the poor, how to release those heavy laden from burdens, how to free the souls of the weary and anxious, and how to proclaim the good news of grace and peace and abundant love.

In an act of unimaginable love, you delivered us from hopelessness, and made a new covenant with us through water and the Spirit. When Jesus died and rose again into eternity, he promised to abide with us in your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he surrendered himself, 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 meal had ended, Jesus took the cup, offered thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this cup of renewed covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for all the world. To You, O

Creator of love and life, through Christ Jesus who makes all life new, in communion with your Holy Spirit who breathes new life into all, we honor and praise you for your everlasting love.

(All Sing) Amen.

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.)

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants and witnesses to the world. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Loretta Cudney, Co-Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #2260 "Let Us Be Bread" (Full Version) (Words and Music by Thomas J. Porter) / All (Led by Phil Bremenstuhl; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)**

Refrain

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in the Lord.

Verse 1

I am the bread of life, broken for all. Eat now and hunger no more.

[Refrain]

Verse 2

You are my friends if you keep my commands, no longer servants but friends.

[Refrain]

Verse 3

See how my people have nothing to eat. Give them the bread that is you.

[Refrain]

Verse 4

As God has loved me, so I have loved you. Go and live on in my love.

[Refrain]

*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (Adapted from Prov 22, Ps 125, Jas 2, Mark 7) / Led by Rev. J. T. Kim

(Pastor) With those who are pure of heart,

(People) we go forth with the protection of God.

(Pastor) With those who sow justice in the world,

(People) we go forth to reap a harvest of righteousness.

(Pastor) With those who live their faith,

(People) we go forth to bring the kingdom here on earth.

(Pastor) With those who know the vastness of God's love,

(People) we go forth to share this love with others.

(Pastor) Go with God.

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Toccata on 'And Can It Be'" (By John Innes) / 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 & Children's Time: Loretta Cudney, Co-Lay Leader

Interlude & Hymn Leader: Phil Bremenstuhl

Organist: Robert Phillips

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

Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

Laity Blessings: Loretta Cudney, Co-Lay Leader

Communion Coordinator: Lee Ann Salmon

Altar Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine and the Décor Team

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