



First Sunday after Christmas Day

Sunday Worship (In-Person & Online)

December 26, 2021, 10 a.m.

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

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

December 26, 2021: First Sunday After Christmas Worship

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 as you are comfortable.

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES / Joseph and Justice Juarez, Acolytes

PRELUDE: “Short Prelude #8” (By Johann Sebastian Bach) / Yvonne Flagg, Pianist

***TRINITY BELLS** / Gayla Lonsbery

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Greg Laird, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Come, people of God. Let us give thanks for these holy days of Christmas.

(All) We have come to worship the God of new beginnings and new opportunities.

(Liturgist) Come, people of God. Let us celebrate and rejoice for the wondrous gifts given to us.

(All) We receive the gifts of Christmas: love, hope, peace, and joy!

***LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** / Greg Laird, Liturgist

Here is good news of boundless joy for all people:

God has rescued us from the domain of darkness,

and brought us into the realm of Christ,

in whom our release is secured, and our sins are forgiven.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never captured it.

Let us pray that we may know the warmth and brightness of Jesus Christ,

and show Christ’s love to the world.

(All) May Christ’s light shine in our lives. Hallelujah! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN:** #206 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (By Kathleen Thomerson) / Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader, accompanied by Yvonne Flagg

Verse 1

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Verse 2

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness,
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.
[Refrain]

Verse 3

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.
[Refrain]

WELCOME / The Rev. Beverly Devine

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys

Birthdays:

William George 12/29

Jackie Cook 12/31

Anniversary:

Kirk and Kelly Weakly 12/29

Sharing of Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

At the threshold of this new year, O God, we come before you in prayer, ever mindful of the gift of your Son. We come before you with the promise that this year will be different ... that we will follow the star instead of the crowd; that we will do what Mary did and rejoice in God; that we will do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams; that we will do what the Wise Men did and go to worship; that we will do what the shepherds did and praise, you, God for all that we have seen and heard.

We have such good intentions as the year stretches out before us, O God; when the night becomes its darkest and we cannot see our path, guide us back to Christmas and the light of the star and the angel songs and the faith of the followers and the remembrance of our promise that this year will be different because we are different because of your gift of love. The holiday is over but the work of Christmas is just beginning. Keep us steadfast in our task to bring the light of Christmas to the dark corners of our world as we strive to follow in the footsteps of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

INTERLUDE: *"Rocking"* (Traditional Czech Melody, translation by Percy Dearmer; arr. by John Carol Case) / Yvonne Flagg, Soloist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *"God's All-Stars"* / Pastor Bev
Special Guest Stars: Sarah Overton-Fraser, Lyn Knowles, John Zeeb and Sophie Weiss

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NRSV) / Greg Laird, Liturgist

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Psalm 25: 1-2a; 4-5 (Common English Bible)

¹ I offer my life to you, LORD. ² My God, I trust you.

⁴ Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth – teach it to me – because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

*Please stand as you are comfortable for the reading of the Gospel.

***GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-5 (NRSV) / Greg Laird, Liturgist**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

(All) **Glory to you, O Christ! Amen!**

SERMON: "ME AND MY DRUM" / The Rev. Beverly Devine

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #249 "There's a Song in the Air"** (By Josiah G. Holland; Music by Karl P. Harrington) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin, accompanied by Yvonne Flagg, Pianist)

Verse 1

**There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

Verse 2

**There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

Verse 3

**In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!**

Verse 4

**We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Greg Laird, Liturgist
We celebrate the birth of the Holy Child!

Jesus' presence surrounds all who call upon his name.

May we gratefully offer financial gifts as a way to provide hope for all God's children.

May we rejoice in knowing that God's ministry is strengthened by our gifts and prayers.

(All) Amen!

HOW TO GIVE / Greg Laird, 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:** #219 *"What Child Is This"* (Verse 3) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;

the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, hast to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / All (Led by Greg Laird, Liturgist)**

God of our salvation, we are still feeling the Christmas glow. Our heads are filled with the sounds and smells and memories of the joy and love and the stable and the baby in the manger. Some of us may wish we didn't have to head back into the world.

As we present gifts to you, we pray that they might reach those in the greatest need, that they might lift those in the deepest despair, and that they might bring peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst conflict. Lord, help us see the mission you've put before us. Bethlehem is just the beginning of our work!

Send us out into our world to tell of and share your love and light! We pray this in your holy name, Jesus! Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Mimi Luker, Co-Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #251 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"** (Afro-American Spiritual, adapt. By John W. Work, Jr.; Music adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin, accompanied by Yvonne Flagg, Pianist)

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

[Refrain]

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth.

[Refrain]

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

[Refrain]

***BENEDICTION:**

It is hard to maintain the enthusiasm, even one short day after Christmas. We often feel like all that work and all that good feeling are just lost from here on out. Sometimes, even with the best of intentions, we get lost in the busyness of our lives.

We want Jesus to be where we want Jesus to be, not necessarily where Jesus has chosen to be. We are called to go where Jesus is.

So, as we go out into the world today, may we seek direction and the light that will keep us on the right paths,

even as we get caught up in the routines of our lives.

Go now in hope, peace, joy and love...in Jesus' name!! **Amen!**

POSTLUDE: "Short Prelude #1" (By Johann Sebastian Bach) / Yvonne Flagg, Pianist

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD / Joseph & Justice Juarez, Acolytes

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Happy New Year!



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

Liturgist: Greg Laird

Acolytes: Joseph and Justice Juarez

Hymn Leader: Kris Lovekin

Pianist and Soloist: Yvonne Flagg

God's All -stars: Sarah Overton-Fraser, Lyn Knowles, John Zeeb and Sophie Weiss

Laity Blessings: Mimi Luker, Co-Lay Leader

Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

Media/Livestream Team: Dan, Gayla, Cassie and Carmen Lonsbery & Don Knowles

Altar Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine and the Décor Team

Head Usher: Matt Gorder

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Rose Roberts (Jazz & Chandra Roberts' Family), Chandra Roberts, Lynn Ashworth, Cheryl Riggs, Taylor Family, Eugene Brown, Jason Pritchard, Nathaniel Pritchard, Family of Don Nauss, Greg Campbell, Tony Miller, Lisa & David Wallace, Winston, Madison (and her father), Jeff Rindskopf, Randy, Jordan, Jim Ashworth, Family of LuEtta Dodge, Margaret Berger, Family of Caleb Fruean-Brown, Lee Ann and Alfred Kocharian, Family of Oliver Marley, Buddy Irving, Brian Weidinger, Rosalie Bustamante, Debbie Hofmann, Patty Binford, John Logger, Bill McInRoe, Dianne Purkey, Mary Bidwell, Mary Boon, Virginia Brawner, Melva Cooke, DeDe Earhart, Velma Wellborn, Bill Wolter, Ruth Walker, Family of Barbara in Germany, Family of Doris Wright, Family of Kathleen Phillips, Sabrina Gilbert, Family of Tom Hanrahan.

(Please update our prayer list by contacting our church office. Thank you!)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Please contact the church office for more details.

Sunday, December 26

Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Hall) - 10:15 am

Sunday Worship (Rev. Beverly Devine Preaching) (Sanctuary) - 10 am

Caring Ministry (Mary's Kitchen) - 11:30 am

Monday, December 27

Church Campus Closed

Tuesday, December 28

Church Campus Closed

Wednesday, December 29

Parents' Morning Out (Rm. 2, Preschool) - 9 am

Youth (Youth Center) - 6:30 pm

Friday, December 31

Church Office Closes at Noon

Saturday, January 1

Happy New Year!



In Honor of all of the healthcare workers who have worked through the pandemic.
by Loretta and Dave Cudney

In Memory of our dear son and brother, Dr. Edwin A. Roberts
By Bob, Benita and Joan Roberts

In Memory of Cliff Berger
By Margaret Berger

In Memory of Mary Nelson and Bert Rakow
By Bob and Norma Nelson

In Honor of Family and Friends here and now,
and in Memory of Berkley Kaufhold and all of our
other friends and family who are with us in spirit:
We miss your presence in this world.
By Paula Kaufhold

In Honor of Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Kim
and our FUMCOR Family, in Thanksgiving for all
your love and support through 2021!
By Roy and Cheryl Riggs

In Memory of Gerry and Clint Marr
and in Honor of Family: Pat, Renee and Teagan Bong,
Shawna, Troy, Cora and Quinn Reupert,
Katrina, John, Lillian and Julia Zeeb
By Cindy Marr

In Memory of Loved Ones
By Genette and Jim Sizer

In remembrance of our son David
By Lynn and Bill Ashworth

In Memory of Laurie Williams and her father, Richard Williams
By Pat Williams

In Honor of our mother and father,
Sylvia and Jim Alfred, and my brothers,
John and Mike Alfred
With love, Anne Alfred

In Memory of my mother, Eula Robison, and
my grandparents, William and Burnice Germain
By Pam Conlin

In Memory of my parents, Manette and C. Bruce Tomlinson,
and Susan's mother, Judy Lamers
By Susan and Brian Tomlinson

In Honor of my 103-year-old aunt,
and in Memory of my parents and grandparents
by Linda Rydzik

In Memory of Rev. Dr. Lambert W. All
By Mike Alfred

In Memory of Phyllis Chandler
By Jeanne Gaut

In Honor of Becky Ruiz and Stephanie Chandler
By Mary L. Herrmann

In Memory of Bob Waddell
by Elizabeth Waddell

In Memory of lost loved ones in my family
and the church family
by Marcia Bales

In Memory of Albert and Helen Fraser, June G. Ward-Overton,
Charles B. Overton, Maude L. Ward
By Sarah Overton-Fraser and David Fraser

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Interlude: "Rocking" Traditional Czech Melody, trans. by Percy Dearmer, arr. by John Carol Case.
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