



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

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE AT 10:00 a.m.
<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 / Carolina Renteria, Acolyte

PRELUDE: “Open My Eyes That I May See” by Robert J. Powell / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***INTROIT:** "Easter Fanfare" by E. E. Ferguson / The Aldersgate Choral / Directed by Yvonne Flagg

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by John McDonald, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Christ the Lord is risen today!

(All) Alleluia!

(L) We gather today, aware of the ways we continue to nail Christ to the cross.

(All) Forgive us, God.

(L) We gather today, celebrating the ministries of United Methodist Native Americans.

(All) We praise you, God.

(L) We gather today, prepared to participate in the restoration of relationships with all God's children.

(All) Restore us, God!

(L) We gather today, trusting that the resurrection promise is for us, for our children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

All: Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!

***OPENING HYMN: #318 "Christ Is Alive"** by Brian Wren / **All** / Led by Kris Lovekin

Verse 1

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.**

Verse 2

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.**

Verse 3

**Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.**

Verse 4

**In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.**

Verse 5

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

WELCOME / Rev. Bev Devine

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

Merciful Savior, too often our eyes are dim. You stand in our very midst, but we are unaware and disconnected. We sit with you at the dinner table but look right past you. You speak to us, but our hearing is dull. We read the scriptures, but we fail to understand. Lord, we want to know you, to see you, to hear your word to us and to apply it to our lives. Open our hearts and minds, we pray; speak to us through your Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Danish)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Sarah Overton-Fraser

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV) / Liturgist

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.'

²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'

³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

ANTHEM: "Many and Great, O God," by Joseph R. Renville; Tune: "LACQUIPARLE" by Dakota Odowan, arr. by Dan Damon / Aldersgate Chorale with Josh Ponnuraju, hand drum

SERMON: "Dropping In" / The Rev. Bev Devine

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #454** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” by Clara H. Scott

Verse 1

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 2

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 3

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

(L) Today, we bring our gifts to the Creator of all we know and all we don't know. Peter reminded the early followers, and us, today, that through Jesus, we “have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God” (1 Peter 1:21).

(All) May our lives reflect that trust to others. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

(L) I invite the ushers to come forward to receive our offerings.

OFFERTORY: “Christ Is Arisen” by Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer

***DOXOLOGY: #95** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” by Thomas Ken

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 / Liturgist**

(L) God of all generations, thank you for all of your blessings. Thank you for the diversity of culture and tradition in The United Methodist Church.
(All) **As we present our gifts to you today, multiply them so that all your children have opportunities to learn of you, to worship you, and to be restored by you. Transform them into ministries for Native American churches to repair harm, bring healing, and offer hope. Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #162** “Alleluia, Alleluia” by Donald Fishel

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Verse 1

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the king of creation. (Refrain)

Verse 2

Spread the good news o’er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)

Verse 3

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever. (Refrain)

Verse 4

Come, let us praise the living God,

joyfully sing to our Savior. (Refrain)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” by Michael Bedford

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD



Loretta Cudney and family, Pat Beals, Virginia Brawner family,
Lydia Russell, Pat Williams, Art Rodriguez, Kim Austin,
Sally Gamble, family of Sheila Kane, family of Jean Grout



We are grateful for the Worship/Media Team members who have faithfully served today:

Acolyte: Carolina Renteria	Laity Blessings: Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader
Organist: Robert Phillips	Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann
Anthem: The Aldersgate Chorale	Head Usher: Matt Gorder
Liturgist: Sophie Weiss	Altar Décor: The Décor Team
Choir Director/Hymn Leader: Yvonne Flagg	Media/Livestream Team: Don Knowles,
Children's Moment: Sarah Overton-Fraser	Dan, Carmen, and Gayla Lonsbery
Sermon: The Rev. Bev Devine	

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, April 23

- Children's Chime Choir Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 a.m.
- Worship - Third Sunday of Easter; Sermon: "Dropping In" by Rev. Bev Devine (Sanctuary) - 10 a.m.
- Children Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m.

Monday, April 24

- Church Council (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25

- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 p.m.
- UWiF Citrus Circle (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 26

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) – 9 a.m.
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth (Youth Room) – 5:30 p.m.
- The Response Rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 27

- Vaccine Clinic (Fellowship Hall) – 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- UWiF Bible Study (Zoom) - 6:45 p.m.
- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) – 7 p.m.

Friday, April 28

- UMM Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) – 7 a.m.

Saturday, April 29

- UWiF Participating in Wood Streets Yard Sale (Front Lawn) – 8 a.m.

Sunday, April 30

- Children's Chime Choir (Mary's Kitchen) – 9:30 a.m.
- Worship – Fourth Sunday of Easter; Guest Speaker: Claire Jefferson Glipa, Executive Director of Family Promise of Riverside (Sanctuary) – 10 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m.

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