



ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

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

Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day;
Welcoming New Members (Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Faith)

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

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

PRELUDE: "O God, Thou Faithful God" by Johannes Brahms / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist
(Liturgist) From the north and south, from the east and west...

(People) all are welcome here.

(Liturgist) With hands raised high or hearts quietly pondering...

(People) we come to worship God.

(Liturgist) Bringing our love, opening our minds...

(All) we draw near to God, near to each other, and near to Christ, the Word of God. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN: #79** "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (Verses 1 & 4) / **All** / Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Holy God, we praise thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before thee;
all on earth thy scepter claim;
all in heaven above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain;
everlasting is thy reign.**

Verse 4

**Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit: three we name thee,
though in essence only one;
undivided God we claim thee,
and adoring bend the knee
while we own the mystery.**

WELCOME / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Acts 17, John 14)

(Pastor) Let us extend the hand of welcome to all by sharing the peace of God and the love of Christ with one another. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Danish)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Mother's Day Message / Lucinda Edmunds

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION

- Confirmation: **Andrew Gaumer**
- Reaffirmations of Faith:
Rebecca "Becki" Brawner
Elizabeth Wood-Baisie
John Zeeb



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

CONFIRMATION & REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

INTRODUCTION

(Pastor) Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

(Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader) I present **Andrew Gaumer** for confirmation. I also present **Rebecca "Becki" Brawner, Elizabeth Wood-Baisie, and John Zeeb** to reaffirm their faith.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

(Pastor) On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

(Candidates) I do.

(Lay Leader) Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

(Candidates) I do.

(Pastor) Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

(Candidates) I do.

(Pastor) According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

(Candidates) I will.

(Lay Leader addresses the congregation) Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

(Congregation) We do.

(Pastor to the congregation) Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

(Congregation) With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

CONFIRMATION

(Pastor) (*Andrew*), remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

(*A Confirmation Stole is bestowed upon the Confirmand*)

(Pastor blesses with the Parents/Lay Leader/Youth Director laying hands on the Confirmand)
(*Andrew*), the Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Pastor) (*Name*), remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

(Pastor blesses with Lay Leader laying hands on each candidate)

(Pastor) (*Name*), the Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Lay Leader addresses candidates) As members of Christ's universal Church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

(Candidates) **I will.**

RECEPTION INTO THE CONGREGATION OF FUMC OF RIVERSIDE

(Pastor addresses the candidates) As members of this congregation, First United Methodist Church of Riverside, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

(Candidates) **I will.**

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

(Pastor addresses the congregation) Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

(Congregation) We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Riverside, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BLESSINGS FOR THE CONFIRMED AND RECEIVED

(Pastor) The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 17:22-31 (NRSV)

Paul's Sermon at Athens: God Is the Creator of All Things

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Let the Praise Go 'Round" by William Boyce, arranged by Hal Hopson

SERMON: "GOD" (Sermon Series 2 of 8 on the Apostles' Creed, based on Adam Hamilton's Book, *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why*) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #472 "Near to the Heart of God" / All**

Verse 1

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God;
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

Refrain

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

Verse 2

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

Verse 3

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God;
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(Liturgist) God of love is present in all things. God of compassion is present to a hurting world in these gifts. Through our offering this morning, let us ask God to create a community of love and a place of belonging for all people.

(All) Amen!

(Liturgist) I invite the ushers to collect our offerings.

OFFERTORY: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" by Donald Busarow

***DOXOLOGY: #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken / All 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.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of love and compassion, help us reach those who seek and those who doubt. Use these gifts to help people know the blessings of being your beloved children. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

Recognition of David and Shari Nelson's return from their mission work in Ecuador.

***SENDING HYMN: #369 "Blessed Assurance" (Verses 1 & 3) / All**

Verse 1

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Verse 3

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Prelude on Blessed Assurance" by Gordon Young

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD

BLESSED!

We are grateful for the Worship Leadership Team
who have faithfully served today!

Acolytes: Joseph and Justice Juarez

Organist: Robert Phillips

Liturgist: Loretta Cudney

Hymn Leader: Kris Lovekin

Choral Director: Yvonne Flagg

Anthem: The Aldersgate Chorale

Children's Moment: Lucinda Edmunds

Laity Blessings: Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

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

Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann

Altar Décor: The Décor Team

Head Usher: Matt Gorder



Jean Grout family, David Cudney family,
Lydia Russell, Pat Williams, Art Rodriguez,
Donna Kidder family, Margaret Berger,
Lorraine Chavez, Phil Chavez, Michael Thompson,
Bob Bahnsen, Carmen Lonsbery

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.

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We will list them here, and they will remain for 3 months.

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Coming Events

Sunday, May 14

- Children's Chime Choir (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Worship: Mother's Day and Welcoming New Members
Sermon Series #2 of 8: "GOD" (Sanctuary) - 10 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m.
- Mother's Day Treats (Patio) - 11 a.m.
- United Methodist Men's Lunch by David Fraser. Program: Special Speakers: David and Shari Nelson (Fellowship Hall) - 11 a.m.

Monday, May 15

- Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16

- Staff Meeting (Office) - 10 a.m.
- VBS Volunteer Meeting (Zoom) - 6 p.m.
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 a.m.
- UWiF Meeting. Speaker: Pastor Bridgitt Williams (Chandler Lounge) - 10 a.m.
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 p.m.
- Bible Study: "The Bible Year" / Led by Pastor Kim (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 18

- UWiF Bible Study (Zoom) - 6:45 p.m.
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 p.m.

Friday, May 19

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

Sunday, May 21

- Children's Chime Choir (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 a.m.
- Worship - Sermon: "Jesus Christ" (Sanctuary) - 10 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m.
- "Thank You Breakfast" The Congregation is invited (by the Outreach Committee) (Fellowship Hall) - 8 a.m.

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