

Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Ave. Riverside, CA 92506
September 3, 2023 10 a.m.



Order of Worship

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Holy Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Break Thou the Bread of Life" by Van Denman Thompson / Robert Phillips,
Organist

*TRINITY BELLS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Exodus 3, Psalm 105) / Led by Steve Kerrick, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Give thanks to the Lord.

(People) Call on God's holy name.

(L) Sing praises to the Lord.

(P) Tell of God's wondrous deeds.

(L) Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power.

(P) Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.

(L) Give thanks to the Lord.

(All) Call on God's holy name. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN: #601** "Thy Word Is a Lamp" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith / **All** /
Led by Phil Bremenstuhl

Chorus

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Verse 1

**When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.**

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end. (Chorus)

Verse 2

**I will not forget your love for me, and yet
my heart forever is wandering.**

**Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side;
I will love you to the end.**

Chorus

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Romans 12)

(Pastor) The Prince of Peace leads us into life. With this hope and this promise, turn to one another and pass the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Adapted from Exodus 3, Romans 12)

Loving God, Holy Shepherd, we long for a higher calling. When we would rather tend our flocks in peace than confront the powers of this age, open our hearts to your guidance and direction. When we would rather keep silent than face the suffering of others, open our mouths to speak your truth. Turn us from human considerations and set our minds on your kingdom, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

INTERLUDE: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by William Runyan, arranged by Lyndell Leatherman / Phil Bremenstuh, soloist, accompanied by Robert Phillips

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 (NRSV) / Liturgist

The Ministry of the New Covenant

¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? ² You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; ³ and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. ⁵ Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is

from God, ⁶ who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷ Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stone tablets, came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside, ⁸ how much more will the ministry of the Spirit come in glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, much more does the ministry of justification abound in glory!

¹⁰ Indeed, what once had glory has lost its glory because of the greater glory; ¹¹ for if what was set aside came through glory, much more has the permanent come in glory!

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

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

(All) Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "THE BIBLE: THE HEART OF THE TRADITION" (Part III) (Sermon Series #9), based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #3105 "In Christ Alone"** by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend / **All**

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme or plan
can ever pluck me from his hand.
'Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Adapted from Romans 12) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) God always offers us new beginnings and receives the gifts of our hands so that our hospitality might be extended to those in need.

(All) Amen!

(Liturgist) I invite the ushers to receive our offering.

OFFERTORY: "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word" by Johann Gottfried Walther

***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** (Adapted from Romans 12) / Liturgist
God of new beginnings, bless today's offering, that the hungry may be fed and the thirsty may be satisfied. May these gifts seal our commitment to do what is just and honorable in your sight. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(Congregation) We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

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

(All Singing)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(Pastor) On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All Singing)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

(All Singing)

Amen. Amen. 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, forever. Amen.

GIVING & SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Pastor) For those who are here in person, you are invited to come forward to take communion elements with three options: (1) you can take the communion in a traditional way. Take a piece of Bread and dip it into the Cup, then eat it. (2) Or you can simply take a "Fellowship Cup," which includes both elements, from the basket and eat it in your seat. It's your choice. (3) If desired, you may take a "Gluten Free Fellowship Cup" from the special basket held by one of the servers.

For those who are at home, via online or telephone, please take your own Bread and Cup now at your home.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "Strengthen for Service, Lord" by Aaron David Miller

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN #599** "Break Thou the Bread of Life" by Mary A. Lathbury and William F. Sherwin / All

Verse 1

**Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
my spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word!**

Verse 2

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from Psalm 149)

(Pastor) God has put a new song in our hearts.

(All) We go to sing a new song to the Lord.

(P) God has put a song of justice and peace in our souls.

(All) We go to bring a new song to the world.

(P) God has put a song of joy in our very being.

(All) We go to live a new song with every step we take. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Toccata" by David H. Hegarty

We are blessed by our worship leaders!

Organist: Robert Phillips

Liturgist: Steve Kerrick

Hymn Leader/Solo Interlude:

Phil Bremenstuhl

Laity Blessings: Kris Lovekin

Children's Moment: Christina Graves

Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann

Head Usher: Matt Gorder

Altar Décor: The Décor Team

Media/Livestream Team: Don Knowles,

Dan, Carmen, and Gayla Lonsbery

Communion Coordinator: Lee Ann Salmon

We are called to pray for:

Michael Thompson, Bob Bahnsen, Peggy Haught, Dianne Purkey,
Jim and Genette Sizer, Pawar Singh, Amelia Nieto, Mary Boon, Allison George,
Kim Austin, Jim Ashworth, Kirsten Roloson, Reuben Munoz, Claudia (Cheryl Riggs' sister),
the people of Maui, the people suffering from Hurricane Idalia,
and all suffering from the climate-caused events.

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers. fumc@FirstChurchRiverside.org 951-683-7831

Coming Events

Sunday, September 3

- Worship with Holy Communion – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost; **“THE BIBLE: THE HEART OF THE TRADITION” (Part III)** (Sermon Series #9) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor – **10 a.m.**
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – **10:15 a.m.**
- Church and Society meeting (Chandler Lounge) – **11:15 a.m.**

Monday, September 4

- Church office and campus are closed in honor of Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 5 @ 7 p.m.

- Bell Rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen)

Wednesday, September 6

- Parents’ Morning Out Resumes (Nursery) – **9 a.m.**
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Wednesday nights (Youth Room) – **5:30 p.m.**
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) – **6:30 p.m.**
- Wednesday Bible Study (Zoom) – **7 p.m.**

Thursday, September 7

- UWif Executive Committee Mtg. (Mary’s Kitchen) – **10 a.m.**
- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) – **7 p.m.**

Friday, September 8

- Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Mary’s Kitchen) – **7 a.m.**

Saturday, September 9

- “Riverside Doors Open” Community Event (Sanctuary) – **2-7 p.m.**

Sunday, September 10

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen) – **9:30 a.m.**
- Worship: **“THE BIBLE: THE HEART OF THE TRADITION” (Part IV)** (Sermon Series #10) by Pastor J. T. Kim (Sanctuary) – **10 a.m.**
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – **10:15 a.m.**
- United Methodist Men host Luncheon Fellowship w/ “Courageous Conversation (Fellowship Hall) – **11 a.m.**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday-Friday

Church office phone number: (951) 683-7831

Staff Extensions:

Early in the recorded message, you may select one of these options and leave a message if necessary.

Office Secretary-Bev Devine Ext. 1

Senior Pastor-Rev. J. T. Kim Ext. 1003

Office Manager-Becky Ruiz Ext. 1001

Children/Youth-Christina Graves Ext. 1005

Preschool-Karen Wilson (951) 683-4500

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