

# Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside  
4845 Brockton Ave. Riverside, CA 92506  
October 1, 2023 10 a.m.



## Order of Worship

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost;  
World Communion Sunday**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Meditation on 'Akatombo' (Red Dragonfly)" by Guy Bovet / Robert Phillips,  
Organist

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #64** "Holy, Holy, Holy!" by Reginald Heber and John B. Dykes /  
Led by Yvonne Flagg

### Verse 1

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

### Verse 2

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

### Verse 3

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love and purity.**

### Verse 4

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.**

## **\*PROCESSION OF THE WORSHIP LEADERS**

- Acolytes
- The Aldersgate Chorale
- Choir Director
- Liturgist
- Pastor

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (World Communion Sunday) / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist  
(Liturgist) With Christians around the world, come to the festival of love.

**(People) We come with thanksgiving and praise.**

(L) With believers from every continent on earth, come to the festival of grace.

**(P) We come with thanksgiving and praise.**

(L) With the whole body of Christ, come to the festival of life.

**(All) We come with thanksgiving and praise. Amen!**

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Philippians 2)

(Pastor) Let us share signs of encouragement, compassion, consolation, and love, as we pass the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

**(All) Peace be with you!**

## **THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON)** (World Communion Sunday)

**O God, we join with our sisters and brothers around the world  
in remembering Christ's sacrifice for us.**

**For the opportunity to eat and drink together**

**and for the life we have received,**

**we give you thanks and praise.**

**In the abundance of your many gifts,**

**grant us grace to fill one another's lives with love.**

**Redeem, restore, and remold us until we are made new.**

**Transform our daily bread into the bread of life,**

**and the cup that we drink into the cup of salvation.**

**We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

(Written by Barbara Dunlap-Berg, *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, #431 "World Communion Sunday")

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** "This Is Our Prayer" by Sally Ahner

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Christina Graves

**SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 17:22-31** (NRSV) / Liturgist

***In God We Live and Move and Have Our Being***

**<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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, <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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.'**

**<sup>29</sup> "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. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> 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) The word of God for the people of God.

**(All) Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**ANTHEM:** "Look at the World" by John Rutter / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

**SERMON: "GOD: THE HEART OF REALITY" (Part III)** (Sermon Series #13, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #2260** "Let Us Be Bread"

**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. (Repeat)**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

(Liturgist) Let us open our hearts with God's love for everyone! May we and our gifts bring unity to a world in strife!

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "A Va De (Come, Let Us Eat)" by Frank Ferko

**\*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.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**God of forgiveness, mercy, and reconciliation: Bless our lives, that we may bring  
love to everyone we meet. Bless our church, that our fellowship may be a place of  
unity and inclusion for all. May ourselves and our gifts bring peace and love to the  
world. Amen!**

**HOLY COMMUNION** (World Communion Sunday)

**PRAYER OF INVITATION** / The Rev. J. T. Kim

(Pastor) Source of unity and strength, in our longing for wholeness, we reach out to your  
Son, whose touch heals our brokenness; in our yearning for community, we take hold of  
the promise of Christ, whose life and love bind us together as one.

(Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader) From lives of separation and distrust, knit us into one family,  
where all are welcome and honored. As we share the bread of life and drink the cup of  
salvation, forge us anew as one people of faith.

**(All) Amen.**

**COMMUNION LITANY** (Adapted from Psalm 105)

(Pastor) Once we were not a people.

**(Congregation) Now we are God's people.**

(P) Once we had no place to call our home.

**(C) Now we abide in God's everlasting arms.**

(P) Once we had no family.

**(C) Now all who confess Jesus with their lips, and do the works of Christian love,  
are our sisters and brothers.**

(P) Once we ate, but our hunger was not satisfied.

**(C) Now we feast on the living bread, the bread of heaven.**

(P) Once we drank, but our thirst was not quenched.

**(C) Now we drink our fill from God's cup, the cup of blessing.**

(P) Once we were not a people.

**(All) Now we are God's people. Amen!**

**SILENT PRAYER**

## **PARDON**

(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.

**(Congregation) And also with you.**

(P) Lift up your hearts.

**(C) We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

(Lay Leader) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of all things in heaven and on earth. In the beginning, you brought forth life, that every living thing might live in harmony in the great circle of life. After fashioning our frame from the dust and bones of the earth, you placed your image within us, and declared that it was not good for us to be alone.

(Pastor) Created to be in unity and harmony with creation and with one another, you sent us prophets and teachers when we broke fellowship with one another and when our pride sought out differences among us. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to fashion us into a holy community that would be his body here on earth.

(Lay Leader) Even when dissent and division threatened to pull his followers apart, Jesus prayed that we might all be one in his name and shared with us the bread of heaven and the cup of our salvation in his name. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

**(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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

(Lay Leader) Holy are you, and blessed is your bread of heaven, Christ Jesus. When you sent Christ to be with us, he offered his very self, that we might have the strength to stand when all hope seems lost. Through the holy mystery of this table, you invite us into your presence, tend us in our weakness, and strengthen us through this bread and cup.

(Pastor) With joy and gratitude, we remember that night when Jesus took the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat, this is the bread of life, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you. This is my life in 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."

(Lay Leader) And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts of love and grace, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving. As your covenant people and as reflections of your glory, in union with Christ's love for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**(All Sing)**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION** (Adapted from John 17:20-26)

(Lay Leader) Gracious God, pour out your Spirit and your Power upon these gifts of bread and wine, that through this holy sacrament, we might be the body of Christ for the world. Make them be for us your loving presence, living in us and through us. As your Spirit calls us into unity, through the power of Christ Jesus, make us one with you, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world.

**(All Sing)**

**Amen, amen, amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (#895)

(Lay Leader) 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 THE BREAD AND CUP**

(Pastor) The harmony of Christ's body, living within you.

**(All) Amen!**

(Pastor) The unity of Christ's body, making you whole.

**(All) Amen!**

## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

(Lay Leader) 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 baskets.

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

**COMMUNION VOLUNTARY:** "Supplication from Japan and Meditation from China" by Roberta Bitgood

**UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** / Led by Pastor Kim

**(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.**

(Communion Liturgy adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship and Is It Communion Sunday Already?!*: Communion Resources for All Seasons ©2017 by B. J. Beu & Mary Scifres. Used by permission.)

**LAITY BLESSINGS** / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

**\*SENDING HYMN: #664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"**

### **Verse 1**

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.**

**The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.**

### **Verse 2**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.**

**With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

**\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (World Communion Sunday)

(Pastor) With Christians around the world, go forth to bear witness in a divided and broken world.

**(Congregation) Knit together in Christian love, we leave here to share living bread with a world starving for spiritual food.**

(Pastor) With Christians around the world, go forth blessed through fellowship with Christ to be in union with God and the Holy Spirit.

**(All) Woven together in Christian hope, we leave to share the cup of salvation with a world dying of thirst. Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** "Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God)" by John A. Behnke

*We are called to pray for:*

Michael Thompson, Bob Bahnsen, Peggy Haught, Mary Boon,  
Jim and Genette Sizer, Dianne Purkey, Pawar Singh,  
Amelia Nieto, Allison George, Rebecca Slaughter, Kim Austin,  
Jim Ashworth, Lisa Thomas

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.

To add names or remove names, please contact our church office @951-683-7831.

*We are blessed by today's worship leaders!*

Organist: Robert Phillips

Liturgist: Loretta Cudney

Hymn Leader/Choral Director: Yvonne Flagg

Interlude/Anthem: The Aldersgate Chorale

Children's Moment: Christina Graves

Laity Blessings: Kris Lovekin, Co-Lay Leader

Head Usher: Matt Gorder

Altar Décor: The Décor Team

Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann

Communion Coordinator: Lee Ann Salmon

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



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Sunday, October 1

- Chapel Prayer Group (Chapel) - 9:15-9:45 a.m.
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 a.m.
- Special Sunday: World Communion Sunday.** This is your opportunity to contribute to "World Communion Sunday Offering" using the "Special Sunday" envelopes in the Narthex. Sermon: **"God: The Heart of Reality" (Part III)**, based on the book, "The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith," written by Marcus J. Borg. (Sanctuary) - 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, October 2

- Finance review meeting (Zoom) - 5:30 p.m.
- Worship Committee meeting (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 3

- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 4

- Pastor Kim on vacation 10/4 - 10/17
- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 a.m.
- UWiF Executive Committee (Zoom) - 10 a.m.
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth (Youth Room) - 5:30 p.m.

### Thursday, October 5

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

### Friday, October 6

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

### Sunday, October 8

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 a.m.
- Worship - Guest Pastor, Rev. Bev Devine, sermon title: "Spoons!" (Sanctuary) - 10 a.m.
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m.
- United Methodist Men Lunch/Program (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 a.m.

*Welcome!*

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMING SUNDAY - November 12, 2023**

**If you desire to join our church as a member,  
please contact the church office  
(951) 683-7831**

***We would love to welcome you to our church family!***

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