

Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Ave. Riverside, CA 92506

September 17, 2023 10 a.m.



Order of Worship

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost;
Family Sunday with The Response Praise Band**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "God, Who Madest Earth and Heaven" by Dale Wood / Robert Phillips, Organist

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES / Lilly and Julia Zeeb, Acolytes

***TRINITY BELLS**

***CHORAL INTROIT** "Psalm 100" by Jane M. Marshall / The Aldersgate Chorale (Directed by Yvonne Flagg; accompanied by Robert Phillips)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Exodus 14, Exodus 15, Romans 14) Led by Daryl Salmon / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Sing to God, for God has triumphed gloriously!

(People) God is our strength and our might!

(L) Long ago God freed the slaves from Egypt, opening passage through the Red Sea waters.

(P) Here and now, God is our salvation, leading us through dangerous waters.

(L) Who is like our God, majestic in holiness and awesome in splendor?

(All) Every knee shall bow, every voice shall praise the God of wonder. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN:** "Old Church Choir" by Colbe Wedgeworth, Ethan Hulse, and Zach Williams /All

Verse 1

**There's revival and it's spreading
like a wildfire in my heart,
Sunday morning "hallelujah,"
and it's lasting all week long.
Can you hear it? Can you feel it?
It's the rhythm of a gospel song.
Once you choose it, you can't lose it.
There ain't nothing, there ain't gonna steal my joy!**

Chorus

**I've got an old church choir singing in my soul.
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.
I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!**

Verse 2

**When the valleys that I wander
turn to mountains that I can't climb,
oh, you're with me; you never leave me.
'Cause there ain't nothing, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!**

Chorus

**I've got an old church choir singing in my soul.
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.
I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!
Whoa oh! Whoa oh! Whoa oh! Whoa oh!**

Bridge

**Clap your hands and stomp your feet 'til you find that gospel beat,
'cause He's all you'll ever need, all you'll ever need.
Clap your hands and stomp your feet 'til you find that gospel beat,
'cause He's all you'll ever need, all you'll ever need.**

Chorus

**I've got an old church choir singing in my soul.
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.
I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!
Tag: Oh, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!**

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Romans 14)

(Pastor) As we stand before God, accepted and upheld, let us greet one another as brothers and sisters in this gathered community. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (#895)

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.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

INTERLUDE: "New Creation" by Mac Powell, Hank Bentley and Jeff Pardo / The Response

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 139:1-14 (NRSV) / Liturgist

The Inescapable God

¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

**³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**

**⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.**

**⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

**⁷Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?**

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,'
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

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

(All) Thanks be to God!

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

SERMON: "GOD: THE HEART OF REALITY" (Part I) (Sermon Series #11, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: "Thy Word Is a Lamp"** by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith
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.

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.**
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.

**Now, 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, and I will love you to the end.**
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.
And a light unto my path.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Adapted from Exodus 14, Exodus 15, Romans 14) / Liturgist
(Liturgist) Let us share gifts of every kind in the service of God's healing justice and love.
(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "O God, Look Down from Heaven" by Johann Pachelbel

***OFFERING SONG:** "As We Seek Your Face" / "Jesus, Draw Me Close" by Dave Bilbraugh and Rick Founds / **All** / Led by Rev. Bev Devine

**As we seek your face, may we know your heart;
feel your presence, acceptance, as we seek your face.
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
For I desire to worship and obey.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Adapted from Exodus 14-15, Romans 14) / Led by Liturgist
**Savior God, you look at our world with compassion. You also look at our world with
clarity and a zeal for justice. Use all we bring to life, and all we bring to you today, to
fight for justice with mercy and compassion. Make us and our gifts part of the
healing of the world. Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN:** "All the People Said Amen" by Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan, Paul Moak /
All

Verse 1

**You are not alone if you are lonely.
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.
We are all the same, in need of mercy,
To be forgiven and be free.
It's all you got to lean on,
But thank God it's all you need.**

Chorus

**And all the people said amen. (whoa)
And all the people said amen.
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends.
And all the people said amen.**

Verse 2

**If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter.
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.
God knows we stumble and fall,
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all. Chorus**

Bridge

**Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.
Blessed are the people hungry for another start,
For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God.**

Chorus

And all the people said amen. (whoa)

And all the people said amen.

Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends.

And all the people said amen. And all the people said amen. (repeat Chorus)

Tag: And all the people said amen.

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from Exodus 14, Exodus 15, Romans 14)

(Pastor) Who is like our majestic God? The One who is wonder-worker and awesome in splendor.

(All) No other!

(Pastor) God calls to us to join the holy work of making the world right.

(All) We will live for God and for God's world in all we do. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Carillon Toccata" by Douglas E. Wagner

We are blessed by our worship leaders!

Organist: Robert Phillips

Acolytes: Lilly and Julia Zeeb

Liturgist: Daryl Salmon

Choral Introit/Anthem: The Aldersgate

Chorale (Directed by Yvonne Flagg)

Hymn Leaders/Interlude: The Response

(Jeff Ashworth, Bob Banks, Rev. Bev Devine,
and John Zeeb)

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

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, Kim Austin, Jim Ashworth

Families of: Velma Wellborn, Mary Strickler,
Cynthia (Brockie) McKay, Jim Fisher, Richard Beem

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.

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This Week

Sunday, September 17

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- Family Sunday Worship with The Response - Sermon **"GOD: THE HEART OF REALITY" (Part I)** (Sermon Series #11, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - **10 a.m.**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 a.m.**
- Appetizer Lunch (Church and Society hosts) (Fellowship Hall) - **11 a.m.**

Tuesday, September 19

- Staff Meeting (Conference Room) - **10 a.m.**
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **7 p.m.**
- Nominations Committee (Zoom) - **7 p.m.**

Wednesday, September 20

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - **9 a.m.**
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth (Youth Room) - **5:30 p.m.**
- The Response rehearsal - **6:30 p.m.**
- Bible Study ("The Bible Year") (Zoom) - **7 p.m.**

Thursday, September 21

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

Friday, September 22 - 7 a.m.

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen)

Saturday, September 23 - 10 a.m.

- Installation Worship Service for New D.S. Rev. Moonyoung Lee (off campus)

Sunday, September 24

- Youth Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- SUNDAY WORSHIP: Sermon **"GOD: THE HEART OF REALITY" (Part II)** (Sermon Series #12, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) (Sanctuary) - **10 a.m.**
We will close our worship service with a Prayer Walk where we will pray for:
Our new "Chapel Prayer Meeting" that starts Oct. 1. (Then, continues every 1st and 3rd Sunday @9:15 a.m.)
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 a.m.**

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