

# Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside  
4845 Brockton Ave. Riverside, CA 92506  
September 24, 2023 10 a.m.



## Order of Worship

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Prélude" by César Franck / Robert Phillips, Organist

#### \*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 Psalm 105, Matthew 20) / Lynn Wright, Liturgist  
(Liturgist) Give thanks to the Lord.

**(People) Call on God's holy name.**

(L) Sing praises to our God.

**(P) Tell of God's wonderful works.**

(L) The Lord offers bread from heaven to satisfy our hunger.

**(P) God issues water from solid rock to quench our thirst.**

(L) Give thanks to the Lord.

**(All) Let everything that draws breath praise God. Amen!**

\***OPENING HYMN: #89** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" by Henry Van Dyke / Led by Jennifer Walker

#### Verse 1

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

## Verse 2

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

## Verse 3

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

## Verse 4

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Matthew 20)

(Pastor) The first shall be last and the last shall be first. In holy wisdom, let us seek the peace and welfare of one another as we share signs of Christ's peace. 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

**SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:1-7** (NRSV) / Liturgist

***God's Restoration and Protection Promised***

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

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

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

**ANTHEM:** "You Are the Song" by Joseph M. Martin

**SERMON: "GOD: THE HEART OF REALITY" (Part II)** (Sermon Series #12, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #472** "Near to the Heart of God" by Cleland B. McAfee

**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** (Adapted from Psalm 105) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) In the wilderness of our lives, God's grace is like water flowing from a rock, transforming arid desert into flowing rivers. In thanksgiving for God's mercy, let us give from our abundance as we collect today's offering.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "How Can I Keep from Singing?" by Tom Birchwood

**\*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 Exodus 16, Philippians 1, Matthew 20) /

Liturgist

**Gracious God, you provide bread in the wilderness and life-giving waters in the desert. We offer you our thanks and praise. May our gifts and offerings bless your world—that all may be blessed, and all may find purpose and passion, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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

**\*SENDING HYMN: #2056** "God Is So Good" / **All**

- 1. God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God's so good to me.**
- 2. God cares for me, God cares for me, God cares for me, God's so good to me.**
- 3. God loves me so, God loves me so, God loves me so, God's so good to me.**
- 4. God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God's so good to me.**

**\*INVITATION TO OUR NEW “CHAPEL PRAYER MEETING” OPPORTUNITY**

– Tina Rajaratnam

**\*PRAYER FOR OUR “CHAPEL PRAYER MEETING”**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** “Finale from Partita on ‘Hymn to Joy’” by Charles Callahan

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

Organist: Robert Phillips  
Liturgist: Lynn Wright  
Choral Director: Yvonne Flagg  
Interlude/Anthem: The Aldersgate Chorale  
Hymn Leader: Jennifer Walker  
Children's Moment: Christina Graves  
Laity Blessings: Kris Lovekin  
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, Rebecca Slaughter, Kim Austin,  
Jim Ashworth, Lisa Thomas

*You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.*

[fumc@FirstChurchRiverside.org](mailto:fumc@FirstChurchRiverside.org) 951-683-7831

# Coming Events

## **Sunday, September 24**

- Youth Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 a.m.
- Worship - Sermon: **"God: The Heart of Reality" (Part II)**, 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.

## **Monday, September 25**

- Finance Meeting (Zoom) - 5:30 p.m.
- Church Council Meeting (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

## **Tuesday, September 26**

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

## **Wednesday, September 27**

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 p.m.
- Bible Study "The Bible Year" (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, September 28**

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

## **Friday, September 29**

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

## **Saturday, September 30**

- UWiF Serendipity Circle (Chandler Lounge) - 10 a.m.

## **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.

*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**

**or Pastor Kim [pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org](mailto:pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org)**

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

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