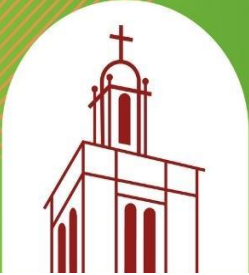


Sunday Worship

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

October 22, 2023 10 a.m.



Order of Worship

**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost;
Stewardship Sunday**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Variations on 'Showalter'" by Jon Spong / Robert Phillips, Organist

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #133** "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" by Elisha A. Hoffman and Anthony J. Showalter / Led by Kris Lovekin

Verse 1

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Verse 2

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

(Refrain)

Verse 3

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

(Refrain)

***PROCESSION OF THE WORSHIP LEADERS**

- The Aldersgate Chorale
- Choir Director
- Liturgist
- Pastor

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Exodus 33) / Led by John McDonald, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Come, Holy God, draw near.

(People) We long to see you.

(L) Come, God of justice, be present today.

(P) We need your grace in our world.

(L) Come in this hour.

(All) Show us your love. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from 1 Thessalonians 1)

(Pastor) Friends, you are God's beloved people, examples of love and grace. Welcome one another with the love of God and the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER – Sharing of Joys and Concerns

UNISON PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (Adapted from Exodus 33)

Holy God, we long to sense your presence and be assured that you have drawn near. Awaken us with your love and grace and show us your possibilities for our lives. Assure us that we are not alone and that you walk with us always. For this we offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lyn Knowles

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 12:6–10 (NRSV) / Liturgist

Whenever I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong

⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.

⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

(Liturgist) The word of God for the people of God.

(All) Thanks be to God. Amen!

ANTHEM: "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr. by Lloyd Larson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV) / Liturgist

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

(All) Glory to you, O Christ! Amen!

SERMON: "GOD'S TRUE BLESSINGS IN CHRIST" (Stewardship Sermon 1 of 2) /

The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"** by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson /
All

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Adapted from Matthew 22) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Jesus said, "Give to God, what belongs to God." We are God's people, created in God's image. Everything we are, and all that we have, comes from God. Out of gratitude for the abundance of God's gifts, let us bring our offering in gratitude and praise.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Adagio from Sonata No. 1" by Felix Mendelssohn

***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** (Adapted from Exodus 33, 1 Thessalonians 1) / Liturgist
**Holy God, your kindness and compassion surround us. You alone are holy. You alone
bring meaning and hope to our lives. We are grateful for all that you are and all that
you give us. Receive us and the gifts that we bring, that the world might know you
and the gifts you offer to those who ask. Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #374** "Standing on the Promises" (Verses 1, 2, & 3)

Verse 1

**Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.**

Refrain

**Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

Verse 2

**Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Tocatta in D Minor" by Johann Sebastian Bach

We are blessed by today's worship leaders!

Organist: Robert Phillips

Liturgist: John McDonald

Hymn Leader: Kris Lovekin

Anthem: The Aldersgate Chorale

Children's Moment: Lyn Knowles

Laity Blessings: Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

Head Usher: Matt Gorder

Altar Décor: The Décor Team

Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann

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

We are called to pray for:

Mary Boon, Amelia Nieto, Allison George,
Rebecca Slaughter, Kim Austin, Jim Ashworth, Lisa Thomas,
Lynn Ashworth, The Genette Sizer family, Bill McInroe

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.
To add names or remove names, please contact our church office @951-683-7831.

Genette Ann Sizer

5/20/1942 - 10/16/2023

A "Celebration of Life" service will be held on
Friday, October 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

at

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Avenue.

A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Graveside service at 1:15 p.m.

Oak Park Cemetery

410 Sycamore Ave. Claremont, CA 91711

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, October 22

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 a.m.
- Worship: Stewardship Sunday, Sermon: "GOD'S TRUE BLESSINGS IN CHRIST" offered by the Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - 10 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m.
- Breeze Training (Mary's Kitchen) - 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, October 24

- Staff Meeting (Conference Room) - 10 a.m.
- UWiF Executive Meeting (Mary's Kitchen) - 1 p.m.
- Panera Fundraiser (Riverside Plaza) - 4-8 p.m.
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 p.m.
- Citrus Circle (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 a.m.
- The Response Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study (Zoom) - 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 26

- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 p.m.

Friday, October 27

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 a.m.
- Genette Sizer's Memorial Service (Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall) - 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 28

- Serendipity Circle (Chandler Lounge) - 10 a.m.
- Halloween Organ Concert (Sanctuary) - 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 29

- Youth Bell Rehearsal/Performance (Sanctuary) - 9:30 a.m.
- Worship: Commitment/Pledge Sunday; Sermon: "WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HANDS?" offered by the Rev. J. T. Kim (Sanctuary) - 10 a.m.
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Halloween Hop (Fellowship Hall) - 5 p.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 into our church family!

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