

# Sunday Worship

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

October 29, 2023 10 a.m.



## Order of Worship

**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Commitment Sunday; Reformation Sunday**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Hymn of Promise" by John Carter / Robert Phillips, Organist

### **\*TRINITY BELLS**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #158** "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" / **All** / Led by Jennifer Walker

#### **Verse 1**

**Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;**  
**praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!**

#### **Verse 2**

**Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;**  
**his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!**

#### **Verse 3**

**Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,**  
**singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Psalm 90, Matthew 22) / Led by Jennifer Mahl, Liturgist (Liturgist) God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

**(People) Before the mountains were brought forth,**

(L) before the earth and sky were formed,

**(P) God was from everlasting to everlasting.**

(L) We come to worship this day,

**(P) that God may gather us in.**

(L) We will be close to God's heart,

**(P) and we will dwell in God's grace.**

(L) We will love God fully,

**(All) and we will love one another well. Amen!**

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Psalm 90, Matthew 22)

(Pastor) May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be your dwelling place, now and forevermore!

**(All) Amen!**

## **THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

**UNISON PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (PRAYER OF CONFESSION)** (Adapted from Psalm 90, 1 Thessalonians 2, Matthew 22)

**God of Mercy, we hear your command to love one another. These words are easy to say, yet so difficult to do. If only loving could be as natural as breathing, but it takes work and dedication. Even when we think we are following you, God, it is easy to get distracted, overwhelmed, turned around, even lost. We turn to the loud praise of the world, rather than the quiet whisper of your blessing. We do the simple, the least-resistant, and leave the difficult behind. Turn us around, God. Turn us back to you when we have wandered, when we have suffered, or when we bring suffering on others. Show us once more what love looks like and send us into the world to try again. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** "Amen" (Dresden)

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Christina Graves

**SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 4:1-12** (NRSV) / Liturgist

***Moses' Divine Commission***

**Then Moses answered, "But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" <sup>2</sup>The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff."**

<sup>3</sup>And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it. <sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail" — so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand— <sup>5</sup> "so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

<sup>6</sup> Again, the Lord said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. <sup>7</sup>Then God said, "Put your hand back into your cloak" — so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body— <sup>8</sup> "If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign. <sup>9</sup>If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

<sup>10</sup> But Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." <sup>11</sup>Then the Lord said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup>Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak."

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

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

**ANTHEM:** "Father of Heaven, Whose Love Profound," setting by Healey Willan / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

**\* GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:19-23** (NRSV) / Liturgist

***The Parable of the Talents***

<sup>19</sup> "After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

<sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

**<sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**SERMON: "WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?"** (Stewardship Sermon 2 of 2; Inspired by the book, *Money Matters: Financial Freedom for All God's Children*, written by Michael Slaughter) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\*PRESENTATION OF YOUR COMMITMENT CARDS / HYMN OF DEDICATION**

**#140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas O. Chisolm and William M. Runyon / All**

**Verse 1**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

**Refrain:**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Verse 2**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**

**Verse 3**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** / Liturgist

(Liturgist) As the Church, we are called to serve. Our service begins by offering our lives to Christ, and continues through the gifts we give, that the Church may continue to witness to the word of God.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "Andante Tranquillo from Sonata No. 4" by Felix Mendelssohn

**\*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** / Led by Liturgist

**To you, O God, we offer our praise. For you, we offer our gifts. With you, we offer our lives in service to the world. Teach us to embody your word in action and service, that we may present ourselves as living sacrifice to you and your holy word. Amen.**

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

**\*SENDING HYMN: #707** "Hymn of Promise" by Natalie Sleeth / **All**  
**Verse 1**

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**Verse 2**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**Verse 3**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by John Innes

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

Organist: Robert Phillips  
Liturgist: Jennifer Mahl  
Hymn Leader: Jennifer Walker  
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

*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!*

*We are called to pray for:*

Rebecca Slaughter, Kim Austin, Jim Ashworth, Lisa Thomas, Bill McInroe,  
Mack and Elizabeth Davis, the families of Genette Sizer and Lynn Ashworth,  
our families, our neighbors, our country, our world.

*You are invited to submit names requesting prayers. [fumc@FirstChurchRiverside.org](mailto:fumc@FirstChurchRiverside.org) 951-683-7831*

*Lynn Grace Ashworth*

5/4/1939 - 10/20/2023

You are invited to Lynn's  
"Celebration of Life" service will be held on  
Friday, November 17, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.  
A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

First United Methodist Church of Riverside  
4845 Brockton Avenue



To receive information from the church,  
(newsletters, prayer requests, event notifications, etc.)  
please email [fumca@FirstChurchRiverside.org](mailto:fumca@FirstChurchRiverside.org) to request  
being added to the distribution list.

## *This Week*

### **Sunday, October 29**

- Youth Bells Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- Worship - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost; Commitment/Pledge Sunday; "WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?" (Stewardship Sermon 2 of 2) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor - **10 a.m.**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 a.m.**
- Halloween Hop (Fellowship Hall) - **5 p.m.**
- Prayer Vigil for Palestine and Israel led by Cal-Pac Conference's Justice and Compassion Ministry (Zoom) - **5 p.m.**

### **Monday, October 30 - 5:30 p.m.**

- Finance (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, October 31 - 7 p.m.**

- Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen)

### **Wednesday, November 1**

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - **9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Wed. Nights - **5:30 p.m.**
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **6:30 p.m.**
- Bible Study (The Bible Year) (Zoom) - **7 p.m.**

### **Thursday, November 2**

- UWiF Bible Study LOTW (1/6) (Zoom) - **6:45 p.m.**
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - **7 p.m.**

### **Friday, November 3 - 7 a.m.**

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

**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK -  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUNDAY, November 5**

### **Sunday, November 5**

- Bell rehearsal - (Sanctuary) - **8:45 a.m.**
- Chapel Prayer Gathering (Chapel/Narthex) - **9:15 a.m.**
- Youth Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- All Saints' Sunday Worship with Holy Communion and Remembrance - **10 a.m.**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 a.m.**
- Church and Society (Chandler Lounge) - **11:15 a.m.**
- Breeze training (Mary's Kitchen) - **11:15 a.m.**
- UMC Missionary Katherine Parker (Chandler Lounge) - **5 p.m.**

## **Music Copyright License Information**

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