

# Sunday Worship

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

October 8, 2023 10 a.m.



## Order of Worship

### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Gather Us In" by John A. Behnke / 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** / Josephine Essien, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Extraordinary God, gather us in for the holiness of ordinary things –  
**(People) a gathering of fellow believers, a song of praise, a prayer of thanksgiving, a word, silence, a fountain of water to our souls.**

(L) Send your spirit to rush, cool and clear, through our dry and brittle places.

**(All) May your spirit seep into the cracks and crevices of our hearts, that we might know you more fully and worship you more deeply. Amen.**

\***OPENING HYMN: #2236** "Gather Us In" by Marty Haugen / Led by Rev. Bev Devine  
**Verse 1**

**Here in this place new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in—the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in—the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

## **Verse 2**

**We are the young—our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old—who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in—the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in—the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.**

## **Verse 3**

**Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

## **Verse 4**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light-years away,  
but here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in—all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

**WELCOME** / Rev. Bev Devine

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

(Pastor) The peace of Christ is a feeling of peace that is given to us by Christ when we trust—not our circumstances—but all that God promises to be to us in Christ.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

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

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

-Sharing of Joys

-Sharing of Concerns

## UNISON PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, we thank you for your promise to be with us and among us today as we worship you in a spirit of humility and holiness. We invite you to be our "true mirror," to hold up before us your word in such a way that we see our true selves. Help us also to see in a new way the fullness of your ineffable glory and transcendent grace and mercy. We await your word to us, that by it we may be empowered to live in the world, announcing your rule of justice, reconciliation and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.

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

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Lucinda Edmunds

**EPISTLE READING: Philippians 3:2-11** (The Message) / Liturgist  
*Apostle Paul discusses the importance of straining toward the goal of following Christ.*

**<sup>2-6</sup> Steer clear of the barking dogs, those religious busybodies, all bark and no bite. All they're interested in is appearances—knife-happy circumcisers, I call them. The *real* believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ's praise as we do it. We couldn't carry this off by our own efforts, and we know it—even though we can list what many might think are impressive credentials. You know my pedigree: a legitimate birth, circumcised on the eighth day; an Israelite from the elite tribe of Benjamin; a strict and devout adherent to God's law; a fiery defender of the purity of my religion, even to the point of persecuting the church; a meticulous observer of everything set down in God's law Book.**

**<sup>7-9</sup> The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—*God's* righteousness.**

**<sup>10-11</sup> I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all**

the way with him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it.

<sup>12-14</sup> I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

(Liturgist) The Word of the Lord.

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

**ANTHEM:** "You Are Mine" by David Haas, arr. by Mark Hayes / The Aldersgate Chorale directed by Yvonne Flagg

**SERMON:** "Spoons!" / Rev. Bev Devine

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #2128** "Come and Find the Quiet Center" by Shirley Erena Murray / **All**

**Verse 1**

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.**

**Verse 2**

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**Verse 3**

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our lives and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming, there is always room to spare.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** / Liturgist

(Liturgist) By faith we gather to worship and serve God who created us.

By faith we commit ourselves to live according to a different call, as our ancestors in faith did. By faith, then, let us return our offerings to God, that we might live out our hope in God's work.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "Come and Find the Quiet Center" by Michael Burkhardt

**\*DOXOLOGY: #62 Verse 7** "All Creatures of Our God and King" by William Draper  
**/ All**

**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise ye! Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** / Led by Liturgist

**Creator God, you know our comings and goings. You know when we succeed  
and when we fail. You know the deepest longings of our hearts. Through it  
all, your love surrounds us, embraces us, and sustains us. In the stillness of  
this moment, let us abide with Christ in your love. Open our hearts to hear  
your summons. Amen.**

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

**\*SENDING HYMN: #2130** "The Summons" by Graham Maule, John L. Bell / **All**  
**Verse 1**

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

**Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Verse 2**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?**

**Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Verse 3**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?**

**Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Verse 4**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?**

**Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

## **Verse 5**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**\*BENEDICTION** (Isaiah 41:1 CEB)/ Pastor

“Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home.  
I love you and you are mine.”

**(All) Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** “All Creatures of Our God and King” by Rebecca Groom te Velde

*We are blessed by our worship leaders!*

Organist: Robert Phillips

Liturgist: Josephine Essien

Worship/Hymn Leader: Rev. Bev Devine

Introit/Anthem: The Aldersgate Chorale

Choir Director: Yvonne Flagg

Children’s Moment: Lucinda Edmunds

Sermon: Rev. Bev Devine

Lay Leader: 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, Amelia Nieto, Allison George,  
Rebecca Slaughter, Kim Austin, Jim Ashworth,  
Lisa Thomas, Cheryl Riggs, Mary Herrmann, Bill McInroe

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.

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



To receive information from the church,  
(newsletters, prayer requests, event notifications, etc.),  
please email [fumca@FirstChurchRiverside.org](mailto:fumca@FirstChurchRiverside.org)  
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## *This Week!*

### **Sunday, October 8**

- Pastor Kim on vacation
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- Worship - "Spoons!" / The Rev. Beverly Devine (Sanctuary) - **10 a.m.**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 a.m.**
- United Methodist Men Lunch/Program on Caste (Fellowship Hall) - **11 a.m.**

### **Monday, October 9 - 7 p.m.**

- Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, October 10 - 7 p.m.**

- SPRC meeting (Zoom)
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen)

### **Wednesday, October 11**

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - **9 a.m.**
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **6:30 p.m.**

### **Thursday, October 12**

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

### **Friday, October 13 - 7 a.m.**

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

### **Sunday, October 15**

- Allegro Ringers (Sanctuary) - **8:45 a.m.**
- Chapel Prayer Service (Chapel) - **9:15 a.m.**
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- Laity Sunday; Family Sunday Worship with Allegro Bells, The Response, and Sermon, "Tomorrow We Wash," by Dr. Cheryl Riggs (Sanctuary) - **10:00 a.m.**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 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 into our church family!***

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## **Wanna be a spoon?**

**Dish up a "one another" helping and heap it on someone's plate:**

- "Love one another," Romans 12:10; 13:8; 1 John 4:7, 11, 12; John 13:34, 35; John 15:12, 17; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 23; 2 John 5
- "Outdo one another in showing honor," Romans 12:10
- "Live in harmony with one another," Romans 12:16; 15:5
- "Welcome one another," Romans 15:7
- "Instruct one another," Romans 15:14
- "Greet one another," Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14
- "Agree with one another," 2 Corinthians 13:11
- "Become slaves to one another," Galatians 5:13
- "Wait for one another," 1 Corinthians 11:33
- "Have the same care for one another," 1 Corinthians 12:25
- "Encourage one another," 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- "Be at peace with one another," Mark 9:50
- "Seek [the] advantage of the other," 1 Corinthians 10:24
- "Bear one another's burdens," Galatians 6:2
- "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another," Ephesians 4:32
- "Teach and admonish one another in all wisdom," Colossians 3:16
- "[Bear] with one another in love," Ephesians 4:2
- "Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another," Galatians 5:26
- "Be subject to one another," Ephesians 5:21
- "Be hospitable to one another without complaining," 1 Peter 4:9
- "No longer pass judgment on one another," Romans 14:13
- "Confess your sins to one another," James 5:16
- "Pray for one another," James 5:16.

**When Christians spoon up these "one anothers"**

**there will be no need for knives and forks!**

**Be a spoon!**