



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

December 3, 2023 10 am

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent / Holy Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Savior of the Nations, Come" by Johann Sebastian Bach / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***CHORAL INTROIT:** "The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed" by Hal H. Hopson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***FIRST ADVENT READING** (from Mark 13) / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

"Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. Watch, therefore, lest God come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to all: Watch."

(All) Amen!

***LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE** / Steve Kerrick and family

We light our first Advent Candle today as reminder that we are watching for Jesus to come. God promised a Savior, and a Savior was born. God keeps all promises, so we watch, knowing Jesus will come again.

(All) Amen!

***ADVENT CANDLE SONG:** "Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting" led by Jennifer Walker
(First Time) The Aldersgate Chorale Only

(Second Time) All

Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting

(Advent 1) Come, Lord Je - sus, we are wait - ing,
Be our Hope this Ad - vent day.
Hope - ful hearts find room for you. Come
Je - sus, and be our Hope.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting'. It consists of four staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line is '(Advent 1) Come, Lord Je - sus, we are wait - ing,'. The second line is 'Be our Hope this Ad - vent day.'. The third line is 'Hope - ful hearts find room for you. Come'. The fourth line is 'Je - sus, and be our Hope.'.

***ADVENT PRAYER** / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us pray.

(All) Help us to keep this candle's light shining in our lives, Lord. We are the people who watch and wait for Christmas and want you to come to us again. Stay in our hearts this Advent Season. Amen.

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

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

(Pastor) As heirs with Christ, let us lead lives worthy of our calling by offering signs of love and peace with one another. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Adapted from Isaiah 64, Mark 13)

God of glory, your power darkens the skies and causes the moon to grow dim.

When we scatter to the four winds, gather us from the ends of the earth and

restore us as your people. Awaken us from slumber, that we may be found ready

when the master of the house returns. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Give Ear to Our Prayer, O God" by Hal H. Hopson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-6 (NRSV) / Liturgist

From Darkness to Light

²The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Carol of the Advent," arr. by Philip Dietterich / The Aldersgate Chorale,
directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:24-37** (NRSV) / Liturgist

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴"But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Keep Awake

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: **Keep awake."**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "HOPE: KEEP YOUR FORK" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #368 "My Hope Is Built" (Verses 1, 2, & 4 only)**

Verse 1

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain:

**On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

Verse 2

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.**

(Refrain)

Verse 4

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!**

Refrain:

**On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Adapted from 1 Cor 1) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) We are not lacking any spiritual gift, for God's abundant love supplies everything we need. As we wait for God this Advent season, let us bring the gifts of our lives: our money, our time, and our skills. God has given abundantly to us. Let us respond faithfully with gifts of joy.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" by Robert J. Powell

***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 Isa 64, 1 Cor 1) / Liturgist

Generous and loving God, you give us everything we need. Surrounded and supported by your love, there is nothing we lack. As we bring our offerings to you, may they support your work of peace and justice, and bring hope to the world. As we bring our very selves to you, mold and shape us as you will, then send us forth to serve. Amen.

ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(Pastor) Come to the table of God's grace! You who have been fed with the bread of tears, find here the bread of life. You who have drunk the sorrows of life, find here the living water, springing forth with eternal grace. You who need to see God, find here the very presence of Christ, his life and love, ready to nourish us all.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(All) Ever-present God, remind us this day that you are always with us. Strengthen us as we worship together, that we may pay attention to the signs of your presence all around us. When our feet wander, guide us back to your path. When our attention drifts and we lose our way, teach us the way we should go. If we squander the time you have given us, help us prioritize you and your teachings. Remember us according to your faithful love. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

PARDON

(Pastor) Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(Congregation) In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(All) Glory to God! Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) Christ be with you.

(C) And also with you.

(P) Lift up your hearts.

(C) We lift them up to God.

(P) Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

(All) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor) It is a right, good, and joyful thing always and everywhere to give our thanks to you, who sent the prophet Malachi to announce your coming reign, the priest Zechariah to remind us of your tender mercy, and John the Baptist to proclaim your coming among us in Jesus. You promise to give light to all who are in despair, and to guide our feet on the way of peace.

And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(All Sing) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Pastor) Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, whose birth in our hearts we prepare with hope and anticipation, and for whose life, passion, death, and resurrection we give thanks beyond measure.

On the night in which he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, broke it, saying: "Take, eat, all of you. This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat it, do so in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, saying: "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the healing of the world. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All Sing) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION PRAYER

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ to a world that sits too often in gloom and fear. Creator of all, Light of the world, Spirit of truth, you are the one God to whom we offer our praise and our thanks.

(All Sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Pastor) And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

(All) 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, for ever. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

(Pastor) The loving presence of Christ, shining in your life.

(All) Amen!

(Pastor) Please take your Bread and Cup now here in the sanctuary and at your home if you are partaking in this communion via online or telephone!

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Philip Moore

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants and witnesses to the world. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #196** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" by Charles Wesley and Rowland Prichard

Verse 1

**Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

Verse 2

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from Mark 13)

(Pastor) Keep awake; hope is coming to us.

(Congregation) We await God's salvation.

(P) Keep alert; Christ is coming soon.

(C) We await God's blessings.

(P) Be ready; Christ is among us now.

(All) We go with God's blessing. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Finale from 'Partita on Hyfrydol'" by Charles Callahan

We are called to pray for:

Norma Nelson, Bill McInroe, Mack and Elizabeth Davis, Rebecca Slaughter, Lisa Thomas, Jim Ashworth, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers. Church office at 951-683-7831.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 3

- Life Stream Blood Drive / Parking Lot - **9 am**
- Wesley UMC/FUMCOR "Giving Tree" in Narthex - **9 am**
- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - **9:15 am**
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 am**
- Worship - First Sunday of Advent "HOPE" / (Sanctuary) - **10 am**
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 am**
- Alternative Gift Fair (Fellowship Hall/Patio) - **11 am - 3 pm**

Monday, December 4

- Trustees Committee Mtg. (Zoom) - **7 pm**
- Worship Committee Mtg. (Zoom) - **7 pm**

Tuesday, December 5

- Blue Christmas Worship Services (Sanctuary) - **12 pm and 7 pm**
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **7 pm**

Wednesday, December 6

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - **9 am**
- Bible Study / Pastor's Advent Study (2/4) (Zoom) - **7 pm**

Thursday, December 7

- Church office is closed at **11:30 am** for Staff Christmas lunch
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - **7 pm**

Friday, December 8

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - **7 am**
- Poinsettia Dedications Due (Office) - **2 pm**

Saturday, December 9

- Santa's Workshop (Fellowship Hall) - **1 pm - 3 pm**

Sunday, December 10

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 am**
- Worship - Christmas Cantata: "Behold the Star!" presented by the Aldersgate Chorale/Second Sunday of Advent / "PEACE" (Sanctuary) - **10 am**
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 am - 11 am**
- See's candy sale (Patio) - **11 am**
- United Methodist Men's Lunch, speaker Dave Leonard (Fellowship Hall) - **11:30 am**

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