



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

December 31, 2023 10 am

Order of Worship

First Sunday after Christmas Day

New Year's Eve Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away" by Johann Sebastian Bach / Robert Phillips, organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Adapted from Psalm 148) / Greg Laird, Liturgist
(Liturgist) With mighty mountains and crashing seas,

(People) praise the name of the Lord.

(L) With rolling valleys and lush forests,

(P) praise the name of our God.

(L) With tiny ants and majestic eagles,

(P) praise the name of the Holy One.

(L) With innocent children and wise elders,

(All) praise the name of Love. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN: #251** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" by John W. Work, Jr., and William Farley Smith
/ Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.**

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Psalm 148)

(Pastor) In this time of glory and praise, let us rejoice by sharing signs of Christ's peace.
Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

(Pastor) "I am no longer my own, but thine.

(Congregation) Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

(L) Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

(P) Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

(L) exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

(P) Let me be full, let me be empty.

(L) Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

(P) I freely and heartily yield all things

(L) to thy pleasure and disposal.

(P) And now, O glorious and blessed God,

(L) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
(P) thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
(L) And the covenant which I have made on earth,
(All) let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

(Adapted from The United Methodist Book of Worship, p. 291)

INTERLUDE: "Away in a Manger" by James R. Murray and Patricia A. Sanders / Youth Bells
(directed by Gayla Lonsbery)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:18-28, 35, 37-39 (NRSV)

God's Love in Christ Jesus

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "The Birthday of a King" by W. H. Neidlinger / Yvonne Flagg, soloist

***GOSPEL READING: John 13:34-35** (NRSV)

Jesus' New Commandment

³⁴ "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "GOD'S LOVE STORY CONTINUES!" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #240** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" by Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, Felix Mendelssohn, and William Cummings

Verse 1

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 2

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 3

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.**

**Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Adapted from Matthew 2) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down and paid him homage, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Let us follow their example, as we bring our offerings to the Christ child.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "O Hail This Brightest Day of Days" by Johann Sebastian Bach

***DOXOLOGY: #95** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" / **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 Psalm 148, Luke 2) / Liturgist
God of the heavens and the earth, we come before you in celebration, bringing gifts for those who cannot celebrate with us. Our songs of praise are for your name and honor. May these gifts give others the opportunity to sing praises to your name as they come to know the endless love you have for each of your children. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Co-Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"** by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
**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.**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from Isa 61, Luke 2)
(Pastor) Go in peace, for we have seen the salvation of our God.
(Congregation) **We go with joy, for Christ has clothed us with love.**
(P) Go in hope, for the Spirit shows us our glorious inheritance in the Lord.
(All) **We go with God. Amen!**

POSTLUDE: "In Thee Is Gladness" by Johann Sebastian Bach

We Are Called to Pray for:

Norma Nelson, Bill McInroe, Mack and Elizabeth Davis,
Rebecca Slaughter, Lisa Thomas, Jim Ashworth,
Lolita Manacop, Mary Herrmann, Pat Williams,
our families, neighbors, country, and our world



THE WEEK AHEAD AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Please contact the church office for more details.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **9:30 am**
- Worship / New Year's Eve Sunday / Youth Bells / Sermon: **"GOD'S LOVE STORY CONTINUES!"** by Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - **10 am**
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 am - 11 am**

Monday, January 1, 2024

- New Year's Day - whole campus closed
- Pastor Kim's Renewal Leave (1/1/24-3/31/24) "Formational and Spiritual Growth Leave"

Tuesday, January 2

- Preschool closed until Tuesday, January 9
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **7 pm**

Wednesday, January 3

- Parents' Morning Out (resumes January 10)
- UWiF Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom) - **1 p.m.**
- The Response Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **6:30 pm**
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth (resumes January 10)

Thursday, January 4

- UWiF Bible Study/Luke (1/6) (Zoom) - **6:45 pm**
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - **7 pm**

Friday, January 5

- Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - **7 am**

Sunday, January 7

- Chapel Prayer Circle (Chapel) - **9:15 am - 9:45 pm**
- Youth Bells Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 am**
- Baptism of the Lord / Holy Communion / Sermon: **"Recreation"** by Rev. Bev Devine (Sanctuary) - **10 am**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 am**
- Church and Society/Missions meeting (Chandler Lounge) - **11:15 am**

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