



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506
December 17, 2023 10 am

Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent: "JOY"

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Rorate Coeli (Let the Heavens Rain Down the Just One)" by Jeanne Demessieux / 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

***THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT READING** (from I Thessalonians 5) / Dr. Richard Rajaratnam, Liturgist

(Liturgist) "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

(All) Amen!

***LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE "JOY"** / John Zeeb and Family

The third Candle of Advent stands for joy. We are so happy Jesus came to be our Light that we can't help but tell others about Christmas in what we say and do. Our joy shows!

(All) Amen!

***ADVENT CANDLE SONG:** "Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting" led by Rev. Bev Devine

Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting



(Advent 1) Come, Lord Je - sus, we are wait - ing,
 (Advent 2) Come, Lord Je - sus, we are read - y,
 (Advent 3) Come, Lord Je - sus, we are tell - ing,



Be our Hope this Ad - vent day.
 Be our Peace this Ad - vent day.
 Be our Joy this Ad - vent day.



Hope - ful hearts find room for you. Come
 Lov - ing hearts we have pre - pared for
 Joy - ful voic - es sing in praise of



Je - sus, and be our Hope.
 Je - sus, who gives us peace.
 Je - sus, who brings us joy.

*ADVENT PRAYER / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us pray.

(All) Dear God, we have joy from you, and we share joy because of you. Help us to share the Light that comes at Christmas as we share this Advent light. Amen.

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

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Adapted from Isaiah 61)

(Pastor) Clothed in the garments of salvation and the robes of righteousness, let us celebrate God's love by sharing the peace of Christ. 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 Psalm 126, Isaiah 61) / **All**
God of Dreams, you have done great things for your people. From times of old, you awaken the faithful to the dawn of your glory. Fill our mouths with laughter. Loose our tongues with shouts of joy. Anoint us with the oil of gladness and make it known among all people that we will live as oaks of righteousness, the plantings of the Lord. Amen.

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

VIDEO PRESENTATION: "All I Want for Christmas" / Youth and Children (Directed by Christina Graves and Lucinda Edmunds)

INTERLUDE: "Silent Night, Holy Night" by Franz Gruber, Arranged by Linda Lamb / The Allegro Ringers (Directed by Gayla Lonsbery)

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-45** (NRSV) / Liturgist

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

ANTHEM: "Behold That Star!" by Lloyd Larson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

SERMON: "LEAP FOR JOY!" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #246** "Joy to the World" by Isaac Watts

Verse 1

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

Verse 2

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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

(Liturgist) Rejoice, for God has done great things for us. In gratitude, let us bring our gifts to God this day.

(All) Amen!

(Liturgist) I invite our ushers to collect our offering.

OFFERTORY: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" by Lani Smith

***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 Luke 1) / **All** (Led by Liturgist)
God of promises and joy, receive these gifts we return to you now. Bless this offering, that our gifts may be signs of joy and hope for others in need. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #220** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" by James Montgomery / All

Verse 1

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Verse 2

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Verse 3

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Verse 4

**Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from Isaiah 61, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5)

(Pastor) Go forth, sanctified in the love of God.

(Congregation) God has turned our weeping into laughter.

(P) Go forth, clothed in the garments of salvation and the robes of righteousness.

(C) Christ has turned our sorrow into joy.

(P) Go with God.

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Carillon on 'Antioch'" by Mary Beth Bennett

~ Poinsettia Dedications ~

In honor of:

**Katrina, John, Lilly and Julia Zeeb
by Cindy Marr**

**Patrick, Renee, and Teagan Bong
by Cindy Marr**

**Shawna, Troy, and Cora Quinn Rupert
by Cindy Marr**

**Rev. and Mrs. J.T. Kim
by Rev. Roy and Cheryl Riggs**

**My sister and my 105-year-old aunt
by Linda Rydzik**

**Kris Lovekin
by Pat Williams**

**Valerie Othon
by Pat Williams**

**Our parents Cindy Marr, Barbara and Bob Zeeb
by John and Katrina Zeeb**



In memory of:

**Rev. Dr. Lambert W. All
by Mike Alfred**

**Cesario Bandong, Jr.
by the Arguelles family**

**Eliseo and Aurelia Enriquez
by the Arguelles family**

**David Ashworth
by Bill and Jeff Ashworth**

**Lynn Ashworth
by Bill and Jeff Ashworth**

**Clifford Berger
by Margaret Berger**

**Virginia Brawner
by Becki Brawner**

**O.L. Brawner
by Becki Brawner**

**Dave Cudney,
husband, dad, granddad and dad-in-law
by Loretta Cudney and her family**

**June G. Ward-Overton, Charles B. Overton,
Maude L. Ward, Albert and Helen Fraser
by David Fraser and Sarah Overton-Fraser**

**My parents, Clifford and Lavaun Lundquist
by Patti Gardenias**

**My father, Rev. Woon Sang Kim;
my mother, Cha Sun Kim; and my sister, Kay Moon
by Pastor J. T. Kim**

**Our moms, Pat Knowles and Doris Lewis Burgess
by Don and Lyn Knowles**

**My parents, Clint and Gerry Marr
by Cindy Marr**

**Laurel McDonald
by the McDonald and Rice families**

Kathleen Phillips by Robert Phillips

**Dick, Rose, Russell and Dalene Riggs, and Bonnie Shomaker
by Rev. Roy and Cheryl Riggs**

**Richard Williams and Laurie Williams
by Pat Williams**

**Clint and Gerry Marr
by John and Katrina Zeeb**

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 17

- Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **8:45 am**
- Chapel Prayer Circle - **9:15 am**
- Youth Bells Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 am**
- Worship - Third Sunday of Advent, "JOY" (Sanctuary) - **10 am**
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 am**
- See's candy sale/fundraiser (Patio) - **11 am**
- Live Nativity (Front Lawn) - **6:30 pm**

Monday, December 18

- UWiF Lunch Bunch (Cheesecake Factory, Tyler Galleria) - **11 am**
- Finance Committee Mtg. (Zoom) - **5:30 pm**

Tuesday, December 19

- Preschool Christmas Program (Sanctuary) - **11:30 am**
- Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **7 pm**

Wednesday, December 20

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - **9 am**
- Preschool Christmas Program (Sanctuary) - **11:30 am**
- Bible Study / Pastor's Advent Study (4/4) (Zoom) - **7 pm**

Thursday, December 21

- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - **7 pm**

Friday, December 22

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - **7 am**
- Church campus closed - **12 pm**

Sunday, December 24

- Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship (Love) - (Sanctuary) - **10 am**
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 am - 11 am**
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) - **7 pm**
- Bell rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **10 pm**
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) - **11 pm**

Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26

- Church campus closed - Christmas blessings to all!

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