



# Sunday Worship

**First United Methodist Church of Riverside**

**4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506**

**December 24, 2023 10 am**

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## Order of Worship

**Fourth Sunday of Advent: "LOVE"**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Greensleeves" by Richard Purvis / 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

**\*FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT READING** (from Psalm 89) / Josephine Essien, Liturgist (Liturgist) "Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. Happy are the people who know the festal shout! They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence."

**(All) Amen!**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CANDLE ("LOVE")** / Becki Brawner  
We light our fourth Advent candle today, and sing aloud in celebration that Jesus was born, and Jesus will come again. Let the light of Jesus, our Light, be our guide every day of our lives.

**(All) Amen!**

**\*ADVENT CANDLE SONG** (All Verses) / **All** / Led by Steve Kerrick

# 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,  
(Advent 4) Come, — Lord Je - sus, we are — pray - ing,



Be — our Hope this Ad - vent day.  
Be — our Peace this Ad - vent day.  
Be — our Joy this Ad - vent day.  
Be — our Love 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  
Long - ing hearts watch ea - ger - ly for



Je - sus, and be — our Hope.  
Je - sus, who gives — us peace.  
Je - sus, who brings — us joy.  
Je - sus, who comes — in love.

**\*ADVENT PRAYER** / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us pray.

**(All) Lord Jesus, we have been watching and waiting. Our hearts and homes are ready for you, and we want your light to shine in us, so others see your gift of love. Come, Lord Jesus, be with us today and always. Amen.**

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Luke 1)

(Pastor) As was promised to our ancestors, God has come to live with us and redeem us. In joy and deepest gratitude, let us turn to one another and share signs of the peace we find in 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 Luke 1, Romans 16) / All

**Come to us, Promised One, in this season of waiting. Set our hearts ablaze with the glory of your salvation. Set our minds afire with the richness of your word. Reveal to us the secret of your ways; for you alone are wise, you alone are worthy of our thanks and praise. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.  
Amen.**

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

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves and Lucinda Edmunds

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:46-55, 2:6-7 (NRSV) / Liturgist**

***Mary's Song of Praise (The Magnificat)***

**<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,**

**"My soul magnifies the Lord,**

**<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

**<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.**

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

**<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.**

**<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.**

**<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

**<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;**

**<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.**

**<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,**

**<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

***The Birth of Jesus***

**<sup>2:6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**ANTHEM:** "Angels' Carol" by John Rutter / The Aldersgate Chorale

**SERMON:** "LOVE IS BORN!" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #219** "What Child Is This" by William C. Dix

Verse 1

**What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**Refrain:**

**This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

Verse 2

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** (Adapted from Micah 5) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Those who keep God's covenant and decrees walk in the paths of steadfast love and faithfulness. It is right to share our blessing in a world where justice for many is but a dream, and mercy is but a hope seen from afar. With thankful hearts, let us joyfully share our gifts in gratitude to our God.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" by Johannes Brahms

**\*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** / Liturgist  
**Glorious God, source of every good gift, bless our tithes and offerings this day.  
May they lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and bring strength and  
mercy to those in need. In Christ's name, we pray.  
Amen.**

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

**\*SENDING HYMN: #242** "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Christina G. Rossetti / **All**  
**Verse 1**

**Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas;  
star and angels gave the sign.**

**Verse 2**

**Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus,  
but wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Verse 3**

**Love shall be our token;  
love be yours and love be mine;  
love to God and all men,  
love for plea and gift and sign.**

**\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from Luke 2, Titus 2)

(Pastor) Go to the manger of love!

**(Congregation) For God's love has brought us salvation.**

(P) Christ's grace has given us hope.

**(C) The Spirit's mercy has made us servants of the Prince of Peace.**

(P) Go with God.

**(All) Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** "Toccata on 'Adeste Fideles'" by David H. Hegarty

*~ 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**

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**In memory of:**

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

**Our parents, Sylvia and Jim Alfred with love, Anne 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**

### *The Week Ahead*

- Merry Christmas! Monday, 12/25, and Tuesday, 12/26, the church campus will be closed.
- Wednesday, 12/27, and Thursday, 12/28, the church office will be open 10 am - 2 pm.
- Thursday, 12/28, The Aldersgate Chorale will rehearse (Music room) - 7 pm
- Friday, 12/29, church office will be open 10 am - 12 pm (New Year's holiday)
- 12/31/23 - New Year's Eve Sunday; sermon: "A POST-CHRISTMAS STORY" by The Rev. J. T. Kim
  - Youth Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 9:30 am
  - New Year's Eve Worship (Sanctuary) - 10 am
  - Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- New Year's Day, 1/1/24, church office will be closed

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