



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

January 28, 2024 10 am

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLES: Hannah and Gabe Arguelles

PRELUDE: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" by Dale Wood / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***CHORAL INTROIT:** "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple" by C. Albert Scholin / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by Steve Kerrick, Liturgist

(Leader) Fount of Life, Glorious One,
your great works are full of honor and majesty:

**(People) the earth that we stand on,
the trees that shade us,
the birds that soar above us.**

(L) Ever-Living God, Generous One,
your goodness and faithfulness endure forever:

**(P) the wisdom we learn,
the justice we long and work for,
the hope you offer.**

(L) Sheltering God, Healing One,
you remember your covenant and its promises to us:

**(P) the grace and mercy you give,
the healing you offer,
the tenderness you show to us.**

The works of your hands are faithful and just.

Your teachings are trustworthy and true.

Your praise endures forever! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: #189** "Fairest Lord Jesus," words from *Münster Gesangbuch*, trans. by Joseph A. Seiss / Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Fairest Lord Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

Verse 2

**Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

Verse 3

**Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

Verse 4

**Beautiful Savior!
Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine.**

WELCOME / Rev. Bev Devine

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We stand in good company, the congregation of our God of righteousness and mercy.
Let us greet our siblings in the name of our good God.
Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

**Gracious God, when we speak of your great power,
the power that abounds in creation all around us,
we sometimes wonder if it is in our own lives.**

**We hear that you are faithful,
that you remember us and your promises,
yet there are places in our lives
that don't feel quite right.**

**We often wonder what you have to do with our lives,
especially in the places that hurt.**

**Help us trust your promised grace,
for we long to touch your healing peace. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God holds true to God's promises and sends redemption to God's people.
Let us rejoice in the God who remembers and redeems.

Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" by C. Albert Scholin

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

ANTHEM: "Jesus, Name Above All Names" by Naida Hearn, arr. by Fred Bock / The Aldersgate Chorale

***GOSPEL READING:** John 1:35-50 / Liturgist

The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

John 4:13-30

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "Do You Like M&M's?" by The Rev. Jaeman Lim

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #348 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" / All**

Verse 1

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

Refrain:

**Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!**

Verse 2

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]**

Verse 3

**Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me. [Refrain]**

Verse 4

**O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

Let us give thanks for the wonderful deeds of God, through our own generosity and faithfulness to others.

OFFERTORY: "Fairest Lord Jesus" by Gregory Hamilton

***DOXOLOGY: #102 "Now Thank We All Our God" (Vs. 3) by Johann Crüger, Martin Rinkart, and Nathan Drake / All**

**All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** / Liturgist

**Holy One, Jesus of Nazareth, Spirit from on high,
may our gifts reveal your grace and mercy far and wide.
May others learn of your faithful love
through the power of your works
and through the gifts we bring this day.
May they also learn that you have everything to do with their lives.
Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

SENDING HYMN: #158 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Christian Henry Bateman
Verse 1

**Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!**

Verse 2

**Come, lift your hearts on high:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!**

Verse 3

**Praise yet the Lord again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

Go forth, knowing that God has heard our cry and will give us the strength to follow God's call.

Go forth to touch the lives of others as our lives have been touched by God.

Go and be the face of God to a world that so desperately needs the loving, affirming face of God.

And may the wrestling God be with you always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: "Toccata" by Douglas E. Wagner

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Kay Otto, Norma Nelson, Mack and Elizabeth Davis, Jim Sizer,
Mary Herrmann, Pat Williams, Michael Thompson, Rebecca Slaughter,
Lisa Thomas, Jim Ashworth, Kim Austin, Jim Conlin, family of Bill McInroe,
family of Kathleen Ruth Longbotham, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

This Week

Sunday, January 28

-Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am

-4th Sunday after Epiphany, The Rev. Jaeman Lim preaching, "Do You Like M&M's?" (Sanctuary) - 10 am

-Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am

Monday, January 29

Finance Committee (Zoom) - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, January 30

-Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Wednesday, January 31

-Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 am

Thursday, February 1

-UWF Bible Study, Luke:000 (5/6) (Zoom) - 6:45 pm

-Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, February 2

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

Sunday, February 4

-Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15-9:45 am

-Youth Bells rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am

-Worship - 5th Sunday after the Epiphany, The Rev. Bev Devine preaching (Sanctuary) - 10 am

-Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am - 11 am

-Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 11:15 am

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