



# Sunday Worship

**First United Methodist Church of Riverside**

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

**January 7, 2024 10 am**

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## Order of Worship

**New Year's Sunday; Baptism of the Lord; Holy Communion**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Waterlife (Borning Cry)" by David Christiansen / Robert Phillips, organist

**\*TRINITY BELLS**

**\*CHORAL INTROIT:** "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple" by C. Albert Scholin

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Genesis 1, Psalm 29, Mark 1) / Steve Kerrick, Liturgist  
(Liturgist) In the beginning was God.

**(Congregation) Listen for God's word  
calling forth creation.**

(L) In the beginning was God's Spirit.

**(C) Listen for God's word  
working with power and majesty.**

(L) In the beginning was God's Word.

**(C) Listen for God's word  
speaking blessings.**

(L) In the beginning was God's Light.

**(C) Listen for God's word  
in this moment.**

**In the beginning was a new day.**

**God's gift of creation!**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #2120** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" by James K. Manley / Led by Phil Bremenstuhl

**Refrain**

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

**Verse 1**

**You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
wake up from your slumbers and rise on your wings. (Refrain)**

**Verse 2**

**You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (Refrain)**

**Verse 3**

**You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)**

**Verse 4**

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,  
with bold new decisions your people arise. (Refrain)**

**WELCOME /** The Rev. Beverly Devine

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Mark 1)

(Pastor) You are members of God's beloved community. Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

**(All) Peace be with you!**

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

**PASTORAL PRAYER** (Genesis 1, Mark 1)

**God, we are so tired.**

**The holidays were a wonderful, busy time,  
as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.**

**As we return to life without festive celebrations,  
we long to avoid feeling let down or discouraged.**

**Teach us to listen for your gentle voice.**

**Help us awaken to the quiet stirrings of new life in our hearts  
and in our communities.**

**As your children, called into being by your word, remake and renew us,  
that we may follow you with joy.**

**You are at work in our midst, offering a new day of hope and possibility.**

**Open our hearts to the sound of your voice. Send the power of your Spirit among  
us, that we might become agents of your love and peace. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

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

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Lyn Knowles

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Genesis 1: 1-31 (NRSV) / Liturgist

***Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath***

The first day of creation: <sup>1</sup>When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

<sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them;<sup>[1]</sup> male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup> God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food." <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

(L) The word of God for the people of God.

**(P) Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM:** "Alleluia" by Ed Harris / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

**SERMON: "RE-CREATION"** by The Rev. Beverly Devine

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #608** "This Is the Spirit's Entry Now" by Thomas E. Herbranson

**Verse 1**

**This is the Spirit's entry now: the water and the word,  
the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.**

**Verse 2**

**Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day,  
to rise again by his design as followers of his way.**

**Verse 3**

**Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal power  
that washes us through all our days. Lord, cleanse again this hour.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** (Genesis 1, Psalm 29) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Over and over, God's creating Spirit blows through our lives.

**(All) In our giving, we respond to this Spirit.**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came" by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

**\*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 OFFERING PRAYER** (Genesis 1) / Liturgist

**God of strength and glory, you created all that is.**

**You continue to sustain the world**

**with the power of your love.**

**You give us life and hope,**

**and with grateful hearts, we bring these gifts to you.**

**May they bring forth your realm of peace**

**for all peoples. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (Mark 1) / Pastor

You are God's child, God's beloved creation.

Receive God's offer of new life and new beginnings.

## HOLY COMMUNION

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION** (Genesis 1, Psalm 29)

(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.**

## **THE 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) God of beginnings, you are always creating.

At the very beginning, you sent your Spirit  
to bring order out of chaos.

You spoke and there was light.

You named the light day,  
and the darkness you called night.

It was the first morning, a new beginning.

You continued your active presence in our world,  
over and over calling forth newness.

With power and might,  
you spoke through the wind and storm,  
washing away past sorrow  
as you cleaned the world and began anew.  
When we followed our own desires,  
ignoring the promises of your word,  
you sent prophets to speak of life and peace.  
You never gave up on us,  
but kept on reaching out to us  
through the power of your Spirit.  
And so, we join the great chorus of heaven and earth, praising you forever.

**(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**

You spoke through the prophet, John the baptizer.  
In the wilderness, John spoke your word, calling people to repentance  
and declaring that one who is more powerful is coming.  
That one was Jesus. And as he emerged from the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed,  
"You are my son, the Beloved. With you I am well pleased."  
Jesus continued to live as your word in the world.  
He built a community of God's beloved persons, welcoming everyone.  
He offered a word of hope and encouragement to the discouraged.  
He challenged the powerful to work for justice.  
In the life and ministry of Jesus, there was a new beginning for creation.  
As Jesus faced condemnation and death, he gathered his friends for a meal.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying:  
"This is my life, offered for you. When you eat this, remember me."

When the meal was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you  
and offered it to his friends, saying:

"This is the cup of forgiveness, poured out in abundance.

When you drink it, remember me."

And so, as we remember Jesus and his ministry of love and forgiveness,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**(All sing) Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

(Pastor) It looked like the end of Jesus' ministry, yet he offered a new beginning with this meal—a meal that binds us together as a holy, beloved community.

God of glory, send your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup.

May they become a new beginning for our lives, by feeding us for your work in the world. Send your Spirit upon us, gathered at this table.

May we become the living body of Christ, expressing your love in word and deed.

Through your child Jesus, and by the power of your Holy Spirit in your Church, all glory and strength, power and majesty are yours, now and forevermore.

**All sing: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**(All) Send your Spirit upon us, gathered at this table.**

**May we become the living body of Christ,  
expressing your love in word and deed.**

**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:** "Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came" by Dietrich Buxtehude

## **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: #152** "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" by Isaac Watts

**Verse 1**

**I sing the almighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.**

**Verse 2**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
who filled the earth with food,  
who formed the creatures through the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky.**

**Verse 3**

**There's not a plant or flower below,  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care;  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.**

**BENEDICTION**

As Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in his baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave one year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given.

May it move us to give our whole selves more freely!

In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray!

**Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" by Dietrich Buxtehude

## *We are called to pray for:*

Kay Otto, Norma Nelson, Bill McInroe, Mack and Elizabeth Davis, Jim Sizer,  
Mary Herrmann, Pat Williams, Michael Thompson, Rebecca Slaughter,  
Lisa Thomas, Jim Ashworth,  
our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

#### **Sunday, January 7**

- Chapel Prayer Group (Chapel) - 9:15-9:45 am
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Baptism of the Lord Sunday w/Communion - Rev. Bev Devine, sermon: "Re-creation!" - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 11:15 am

#### **Monday, January 8**

- Preschool closed
- Worship Committee (Zoom) - 7 pm

#### **Tuesday, January 9**

- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm
- SPRC Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

#### **Wednesday, January 10**

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth (Youth Room) - 5:30 pm
- Trustees (Zoom) - 7 pm

#### **Thursday, January 11**

- UWF Bible Study - (Zoom) - 6:45 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

#### **Friday, January 12**

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

#### **Sunday, January 14**

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Worship, Dr. Joan Roberts speaking / Human Relations Day - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- United Methodist Men Lunch/Program (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am

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