



# Sunday Worship

**First United Methodist Church of Riverside**

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

**February 4, 2024 10 am**

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## Order of Worship

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Black History Month  
Holy Communion**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "On Eagle's Wings" by Charles Callahan / Robert Phillips, Organist

### **\*TRINITY BELLS**

**\*CHORAL INTROIT:** "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple" by C. Albert Scholin / Aldersgate Chorale (Directed by Yvonne Flagg; accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Isaiah 40, Psalm 147) / Led by Jonathon Williams

(L) Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of heaven and earth.

**(People) God sits above the circle of the earth  
and stretches out the heavens like a curtain.**

(L) Those who wait for the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles.

They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.

**(P) How good it is to sing praises to our God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #139** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (Vss. 1-3) / **All** / Yvonne Flagg,  
Hymn Leader

**Verse 1**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!**

**Verse 2**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning  
bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.  
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.  
Hast thou not known his sustaining?**

**Verse 3**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
who with his love doth befriend thee.**

**WELCOME** / The Rev. Beverly Devine

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Psalm 147)

(Pastor) The one who lifts the lowly and brings down the mighty offers us a peace that passes all understanding. Claim the promise of this peace as you share greetings in Christ's name. Peace be with you!

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

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON)** (Isaiah 40, Psalm 147, Mark 1) / Led by Rev. Bev

**Holy God, even in our pursuit of safety and security, we yearn to seek justice for the poor and to defend the downtrodden from the privilege of the powerful. Give us the heart of Jesus, that we may care for the sick and rescue the perishing. Give us the spirit of Christ, that we may spend time in prayer and keep your path before our feet. Give us the love of your Son, that we may be instruments of your peace. Please, order our steps. Amen.**

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

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Christina Graves

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 40:21-31 (NRSVUE) / Liturgist

**<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?**

**Has it not been told you from the beginning?**

**Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?**

**<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,**

**and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain**

**and spreads them like a tent to live in,**

**<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught**

**and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.**

**<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,**

**scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.**

**<sup>25</sup>To whom, then, will you compare me,**

**or who is my equal? says the Holy One.**

**<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:**

**Who created these?**

**He who brings out their host and numbers them,**

**calling them all by name;**

**because he is great in strength,**

**mighty in power,**

**not one is missing.**

**<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,**

**and assert, O Israel,**

**“My way is hidden from the LORD,**

**and my right is disregarded by my God”?**

**<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?**

**The LORD is the everlasting God,**

**the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

**He does not faint or grow weary;**

**his understanding is unsearchable.**

**<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint**

**and strengthens the powerless.**

**<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,**

**and the young will fall exhausted,**

**<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;**

**they shall mount up with wings like eagles;**

**they shall run and not be weary;**

**they shall walk and not faint.**

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

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

**ANTHEM:** "Order My Steps" by Glenn Burleigh / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

**\*GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:29-39** / Liturgist

***Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House***

**<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.**

**<sup>32</sup> That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup> And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.**

***A Preaching Tour in Galilee***

**<sup>35</sup> In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."**

**<sup>38</sup> He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**SERMON: "Faithstepn!"** by The Rev. Beverly Devine

**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: "May Be the Last Time, I Don't Know!"**—African-American spiritual arranged by William Farley 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** (Isaiah 40, Psalm 147) / **All** / Led by Liturgist  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
you shower the earth with rain,  
nourish the land with sunshine,  
and bless your people with goodness.  
Receive the gifts we bring before you this day,  
that they may touch the world with gladness  
and bring succor to those in need. Amen.

**\*HYMN: #139** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (Vss. 4, 5)

**Verse 4**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,  
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.  
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,  
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.**

**Verse 5**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES**

### **INVITATION**

(Pastor) Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**(All) Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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!

**(People) In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**(All) Glory to God! Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

**(All) And also with you.**

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

**(All) We lift them up to the Lord.**

(Pastor) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**(All) It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(All Sing)**

Elise Eslinger  
(after NICAEA)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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(Pastor) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**(All Sing)**

Elise Eslinger



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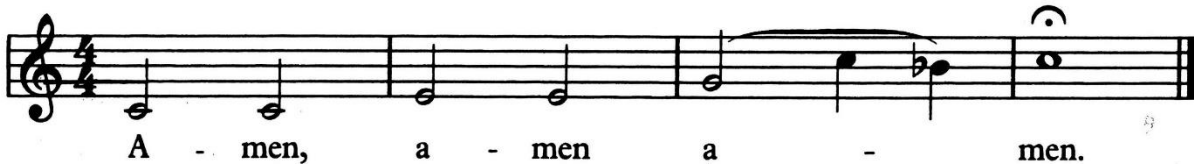
(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**(All Sing)**

Elise Eslinger



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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Pastor) And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**(All) Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

## GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

*(Please take your Bread and Cup now at your home)*

**COMMUNION VOLUNTARY:** "Let Us Break Bread Together" by Charles Callahan

## **UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**(All) Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

**\*SENDING HYMN: #519 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"** by James Weldon Johnson

### Verse 1

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.**

### Verse 2

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

### Verse 3

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Though our lives often seem overwhelming, in God, we shall mount up with wings like eagles. Though our responsibilities weigh us down, in Christ, we shall run and not be weary. Though injustice and discord sap our strength, in the Spirit, we shall walk and not faint. Still, we rise! Together, we pray, "Dear Lord, please order our steps!" **Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" by Johann Gottfried Walther



## *We are called to pray for:*

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 Longbotham, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

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

#### **Sunday, February 4**

- Chapel Prayer Group (Chapel) - 9:15-9:45 am
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Black History Month, Communion - Rev. Bev Devine; sermon: "Faithstepn" - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 11:15 am

#### **Monday, February 5**

- Trustees (Zoom) - 7 p.m.
- Worship Committee (Zoom) - 7 pm

#### **Tuesday, February 6**

- Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 7 pm

#### **Wednesday, February 7**

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

#### **Thursday, February 8**

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

#### **Friday, February 9**

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

#### **Sunday, February 11**

- Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 8:45 am
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Transfiguration Sunday, David Fraser and Sarah Overton-Fraser speaking - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- United Methodist Men Lunch/Program (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- UWF Valentine's Bake and Jewelry Sale (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am

\*\*Reminder: Ash Wednesday Service times: February 14 (Sanctuary) - 12 pm and 7 pm

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