



# Sunday Worship

**First United Methodist Church of Riverside**

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

**April 28, 2024 10 am**

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## Order of Worship

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" by Dale Wood / Robert Phillips, Organist

#### **\*TRINITY BELLS**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #384** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" by Charles Wesley  
/ All / Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader

#### **Verse 1**

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.**

#### **Verse 2**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.**

### **Verse 3**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

### **Verse 4**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from 1 John 4, John 15) / Led by Josephine Essien, Liturgist

(Liturgist) As members of Christ's tree of life,  
**(People) we are connected, in love, to God.**

(L) As members of Christ's tree of life,  
**(P) we are connected, in love, to one another.**

(L) As members of Christ's tree of life,  
**(All) we strengthen our connection through worship. Amen!**

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (1 John 4)

(Pastor) Abiding in God's love, let's share signs of love and peace with one another.  
Peace be with you!

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

### **THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** "This Is Our Prayer" by Sally Ahner

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Christina Graves

**SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV) / Liturgist**

***God Is Love***

**<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.**

(Liturgist) This is the word of God for the people of God!

**(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**ANTHEM:** "Let the Praise Go 'Round" by William Boyce / The Aldersgate Chorale

**\*GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8 (NRSV) / Liturgist**

***Jesus the True Vine***

**<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**SERMON: "SCHOOL OF LOVE" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor**

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #408 "The Gift of Love" by Hal Hopson / All**

**Verse 1**

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Verse 2**

**Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Verse 3**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** (Adapted from 1 John 4, John 15) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Connected in love, let us share our love offerings with Christ's church and God's world.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY: "The Gift of Love" by Franklin D. Ashdown**

**\*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 1 John 4, John 15) / Liturgist

**Loving God, bless these gifts with love. Transform lives with our ministries, that  
your people everywhere might know your grace, abide in your love, and connect  
with Christ, the vine of life. Amen.**

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

**\*SENDING HYMN: #363** "And Can It Be that I Should Gain (Amazing Love!)" by Charles Wesley and Thomas Campbell (Verses 1, 3 & 5) / **All**

**Verse 1**

**And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died he for me? who caused his pain!  
For me? who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

**Verse 3**

**He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!**

**Verse 5**

**No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;  
alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.**

**\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from 1 John 4, John 15)

(Pastor) As God's children, go now to serve.

**(Congregation) We go to serve in love.**

(P) Abiding in Christ, go with Christ to love.

**(C) We go with Christ's love to love one another.**

(P) Go to serve in love and peace.

**(All) Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** "Toccata on 'And Can It Be'" by John Innes

## *We are called to pray for:*

Jim Conlin, Virginia Bahnsen, Michael Thompson, Norma Nelson, Pat Williams, Lisa Thomas, Kat Franklin, Mary Negrete, Ron Tovar, Jim Ashworth, Kim Austin, Linda Rydzik, Richard Austin, the family of Elizabeth Davis, the family of Stanley Thompson, the family of Bessie Ridley

## *This Week*

### **Sunday, April 28**

- Youth Bell rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 9:30 am
- Worship: Rev. J. T. Kim's sermon: "SCHOOL OF LOVE" (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Older Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) Sunday School (Youth Room) - Meet in Narthex at 10:15 am
- The Habit Fundraiser - 3555 Riverside Plaza Drive, Suite S - 11 am to 9:30 pm (Present flyer/show offer)

### **Tuesday, April 30**

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

### **Wednesday, May 1**

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 am - 12 pm
- UWF Executive Board Meeting (Zoom) - 1 pm
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Wednesday Nights (Youth Room) - 5:30 pm
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

### **Thursday, May 2**

- UWF Bible Study (Fear of the Other, No Fear in Love) (4 of 5) (Zoom) - 6:45 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

### **Friday, May 3**

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

### **Sunday, May 5**

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15 am
- Youth Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Worship: Holy Communion, The Rev. J. T. Kim' sermon: "YOU ARE MY FRIENDS!" (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) 11:15 am

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