



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

February 25, 2024 10 am

Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Lent

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" by James Mansfield / Robert Phillips,
Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***CHORAL INTROIT:** "Seek the Lord" by Hal H. Hopson / The Aldersgate Chorale /
Directed by Yvonne Flagg

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by Bev DeFrance, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Lenten travelers, who is this Jesus that we follow?

(People) He is the Messiah.

(L) What kind of Messiah is Jesus?

(P) He is the Messiah who teaches that he will lose his life and who calls us to lose our lives in order to save our lives.

(L) How does it feel to follow a Messiah whose teachings and call are so hard and uncomfortable?

(P) Some feel fear and anger, while others feel uncertain and anxious, and still others feel resolute and ready to follow.

(L) Lenten travelers, we are not alone in our feelings about following Jesus as our Messiah. It is a hard road. The blessing is that we do not travel it alone.

(All) Thanks be to God that we share this journey with Jesus and one another as we lose our lives for the sake of the gospel to save our lives through Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: #2088** "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" by Rick Doyle Founds / **All** /

Led by Rev. Bev Devine

(All) Lord, I lift your name on high.

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life.

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth

to show the way,

from the earth to the cross

my debt to pay,

from the cross to the grave,

from the grave to the sky,

Lord, I lift your name on high.

(REPEAT ALL)

WELCOME / Rev. Bev Devine

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Colossians 1)

Jesus comes to us, proclaiming the good news. He challenges us to acknowledge our wandering heart and to remember that we are loved. As children, forgiven by grace, let us take time now to extend peace to one another. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (Unison)** (Genesis 17, Romans 4, Mark 8)

Faithful One, we want to believe.

Help our unbelief.

We yearn to follow faithfully.

Forgive our hesitant, stumbling steps.

Hold us by the hand, guide us with your love,

and cover us with your mercy and grace.

Help us answer your call, trust your promises,

and walk in your ways

all the days of our lives. Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lyn Knowles

ANTHEM: "A Lenten Walk (Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley)," American spiritual, arr. by Hal H. Hopson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:31-38** (NRSVUE) / Liturgist

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

(All) Thanks be to God. Amen!

MESSAGE: "THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO" / Lynn Wright

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #191** "Jesus Loves Me" by Anna B. Warner, David Rutherford, and William B. Bradbury / **All**

Verse 1

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Verse 2

**Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Verse 3

**Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

As symbols of love and signs of hope,
we bring our gifts and offerings to God.
I invite the ushers to collect our offerings.

OFFERTORY: "Jesus Loves Me" by Albert L. Travis

***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** (Genesis 17, Romans 4) / **ALL** / Liturgist

**(All) Trustworthy and trusting God,
thank you for entrusting us with this good earth.
Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.
Help us live up to your trust,
even as we learn to place our trust in you.
Bless the gifts that we share,
that they may honor the generosity
you have shown us.
In trust and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #2129** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" by Anonymous
Verse 1

**I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

Verse 2

**The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.**

Verse 3

**Though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.**

***SENDING FORTH** (Genesis 17, Romans 4, Mark 8)

Though the former things are past
and the future is unknown,
we go as God's beloved children.
God's love and our place in God's realm are secure,
both now and forevermore. **Amen!**

POSTLUDE: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by Johann Pachelbel and Johann Gottfried Walther

We are called to pray for:

Julie Williams, Virginia Bahnsen, Michael Thompson, James Nuchols,
Norma Nelson, Mack and Elizabeth Davis, Jim Sizer, Mary Herrmann, Pat Williams,
Rebecca Slaughter, Lisa Thomas, Jim Ashworth, Kim Austin,
family of Gail Schroeder, family of Kay Otto

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.
To add names or remove names, please contact our church office: 951-683-7831.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, February 25

- Worship – Second Sunday in Lent, Dr. Lynn Wright, “The Bible Tells Me So” (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Distribution of Lynn Ashworth’s books (Fellowship Hall) – 11 am
- See’s Easter Candy for sale! (Patio) – 11 am
- The Habit Fundraiser – 3555 Riverside Plaza Drive, Suite S – 11 am to 7 pm (Present flyer or show offer on phone to cashier)

Monday, February 26

- Church Council (Zoom) – 7 pm

Tuesday, February 27

- Bell Rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 pm

Wednesday, February 28

- Parents’ Morning Out (Nursery) – 9 am
- Distribution of Lynn Ashworth’s books (Fellowship Hall) – 6 pm
- Lenten Soup Supper / speaker: Sophie Weiss, “Art and Painting” – 6 pm
- See’s Easter Candy for sale! (Fellowship Hall) – 6 pm

Thursday, February 29

- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) – 7 pm

Friday, March 1

- Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 am

Saturday, March 2

- Organ Concert: “Is There Humor in Organ Music?” with Robert Phillips (Sanctuary) – 7 pm

Sunday, March 3

- Chapel Prayer Circle (Chapel) – 9:15 am – 9:45 am
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen) – 9:30 am
- Worship: Third Sunday in Lent/Communion, Rev. Roy Riggs preaching (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- See’s Easter Candy for sale! (Patio) – 11 am
- Church and Society meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am

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