



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

March 10, 2024 10 am

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES: Gabriel and Hannah Arguelles

PRELUDE: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by John A. Behnke / 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 Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Lenten travelers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

(People) Only in God do we find our rest.

(L) Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

(P) Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known in public.

(L) Some days we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

(P) Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.

(L) Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

(P) Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: #192** "There's a Spirit in the Air" by Brian A. Wren (Vss. 1-4) / **All** /
Steve Kerrick, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**There's a Spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.**

Verse 2

**Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!**

Verse 3

**When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.**

Verse 4

**Still the Spirit leads the fight,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!**

WELCOME / Rev. Bev Devine

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE / All

**Gracious God, lift up our hearts this day,
for we long to see your salvation.
Lift us up from the pits of sin and sorrow,
that we may walk in the light
of your love and grace.
Create us anew as reflections of your light
and as offerings of your grace.
For we yearn to bless everyone we meet,
even ourselves, in your name.
In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Christ Jesus, we are created to do good things.
By God's grace, we are able to be good people.
In God's goodness, we are created good.
In Christ's grace, we are saved by love,
that we may love and be loved.

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

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 / Liturgist

Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble

³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ Some were sick through their sinful ways
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;

²⁰ he sent out his word and healed them
and delivered them from destruction.

²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

²² And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "I Love You, Lord" by Laurie Klein / Youth Bells

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Mateo Mamea

***GOSPEL READING: John 3:14-21** / Liturgist

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

(All) Glory to You, O Christ! Amen!

ANTHEM "God So Loved the World" by John Stainer

SERMON: "Don't Give Up, Look Up!" / Pastor Mateo Mamea

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #206** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Thomerson / All

Verse 1

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Chorus

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Verse 2

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

**Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Chorus)**

Verse 3

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to follow Jesus.

**When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Chorus)**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

As we have been saved by grace for the goodness of all, may we share our gifts of grace for the goodness of God's world.

OFFERTORY: "There's a Spirit in the Air" by Frank Ferko

***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.**

***OFFERING PRAYER / All** (Led by Liturgist)
**Merciful God, you have richly blessed our lives
with love and bounty beyond measure.
Bless these gifts we return to you now,
that they may bestow the same richness
of your love and grace in the world. Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #192** "There's a Spirit in the Air" by Brian A. Wren (Vss. 5-7)

Verse 5

**When a stranger's not alone,
when the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.**

Verse 6

**May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!**

Verse 7

**There's a Spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.**

BENEDICTION / Pastor Mateo Mamea

POSTLUDE: "Prelude and Fugue in D Minor" by Johann Ludwig Krebs

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, Lisa Thomas,
Rebecca Slaughter, Jim Ashworth, Kim Austin, Kat Franklin,
family of Jose Baeza, family of Kay Otto, Orlando Almonte,
our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, March 10

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 9:30 am
- Fourth Sunday in Lent / Pastor Mateo Mamea's sermon: "Don't Give Up, Look Up!" - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- United Methodist Men Lunch/Program (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- See's Candy Sale (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am

Tuesday, March 12

- Graveside Memorial Service for Kay Otto (Riverside National Cemetery) - 1:30 pm
- SPRC Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Wednesday, March 13

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 am
- Lenten Soup Supper / Selin Nielsen / Refugee talk (Fellowship Hall) - 6 pm
- See's Candy Fundraiser (Fellowship Hall) - 6 pm

Thursday, March 14

- UWF Lunch Bunch (off campus) - 11 am
- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, March 15

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

Saturday, March 16

- Empty Nesters/Outreach - Potluck, fellowship, and games! (Fellowship Hall) - 5 pm

Sunday, March 17

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15 am
- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, The Response leads hymns; speaker: Regan Pope (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Baked Potato Bar Lunch (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- See's Candy Fundraiser (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- FUMCOR Hosting "Crop Walk" - 1:30 pm

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