



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

Order of Worship

November 24, 2024 10 am

Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday / Thanksgiving Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Now Thank We All Our God" by Jeffrey Honoré / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** #694 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" by Henry Alford and George J. Elvey / **All** / Led by Jennifer Walker, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

Verse 2

**All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

Verse 3

**For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.**

Verse 4

**Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (2 Samuel 23, Psalm 132, John 18) / Led by Daryl Salmon, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Christ comes to be our King.

(Congregation) We are here to be Christ's people.

(L) Clothed in righteousness, Christ comes to save us.

(C) Let the faithful shout for joy.

(L) Adorned with the glory of the rising sun,
Christ disperses our gloom with holy light.

Let all God's people proclaim the Prince of Peace.

(All) Amen!

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

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Revelation 1)

(Pastor) Christ's glory fills the skies and gladdens the heart. Let us offer signs of kinship in Christ's name by exchanging the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

FAREWELL TO MARCIA BALES

(Pastor) The church is a family. United by the common recognition of Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are all brothers and sisters. And, for a time, First United Methodist Church of Riverside is our home. Like every human family, our church family is formed and reformed over time: as members are born, as they die, as members are adopted into our family, and as they leave our congregation for a new home, in a different place. For a time, Marcia Bales has lived with us. We have shared with each other good times and bad, we have shared each other's joys and sorrows, we have lightened each other's heavy loads. Together we have laughed and cried, together we have worshiped and praised God, together we have lived.

(Congregation) We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives.

(Congregation and Pastor) We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.

(Pastor) Let us pray: O God, you are the strength and the protector of your people. We humbly place in your hands Marcia Bales of this congregation, who is about to leave us. Keep and preserve her, O Lord, in all health and safety, both of body and of soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(ALL) Amen.

Marcia, go in the peace of Christ. Our prayers go with you.

(ALL) Amen.

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

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, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden)

INTERLUDE: "Thanksgiving" by Charles Callahan / Robert Phillips, Organist

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Chronicles 20:1-6, 12-30 (CEB) / Liturgist

Jehoshaphat's Victory

¹ Some time later, the Moabites and the Ammonites, along with some of the Meunites, attacked Jehoshaphat. ² Jehoshaphat was told, "A large army from beyond the sea, from Edom, is coming to attack you.

They are already at Hazazon-tamar!" (that is, En-gedi). ³ Frightened, Jehoshaphat decided to seek the Lord's help and proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴ People from all of Judah's cities came to ask the Lord for help. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem in the Lord's temple in front of the new courtyard.

⁶ "Lord, the God of our ancestors, you alone are God in heaven. You rule all the kingdoms of the nations. You are so powerful that no one can oppose you...

¹² ... We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We don't know what to do, and so we are looking to you for help."

¹³ All Judah was standing before the Lord, even their little ones, wives, and children. ¹⁴ Then the Lord's spirit came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah son of Benaiah son of Jeiel son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the line of Asaph, as he stood in the middle of the assembly.

¹⁵ "Pay attention, all of Judah, every inhabitant of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat," Jahaziel said. "This is what the Lord says to you: Don't be afraid or discouraged by this great army because the battle isn't yours. It belongs to God! ¹⁶ March out against them tomorrow. Since they will be coming through the Ziz pass, meet them at the end of the valley that opens into the Jeruel wilderness. ¹⁷ You don't need to fight this battle. Just take your places, stand ready, and watch how the Lord, who is with you, will deliver you, Judah and Jerusalem. Don't be afraid or discouraged! Go out tomorrow and face them. The Lord will be with you."

¹⁸ Then Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord in worship. ¹⁹ Levites from the lines of Kohath and Korah stood up to loudly praise the Lord, the God of Israel.

²⁰ Early the next morning they went into the Tekoa wilderness. When they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and every inhabitant of Jerusalem! Trust the Lord your God, and you will stand firm; trust his prophets and succeed!"

²¹ After consulting with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed musicians to play for the Lord, praising his majestic holiness. They were to march out before the warriors, saying, "Give thanks to the Lord because his faithful love lasts forever!" ²² As they broke into joyful song and praise, the Lord launched a surprise attack against the Ammonites, the Moabites, and those from Mount Seir who were invading Judah, so that they were defeated.

²³The Ammonites and the Moabites turned on those from Mount Seir, completely destroying them. Once they had finished off the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy each other!

²⁴When Judah arrived at the point overlooking the wilderness, all they could see were corpses lying all over the ground. There were no survivors. ²⁵When Jehoshaphat and his army came to take the loot, they found a great amount of cattle, goods, clothing, and other valuables—much more than they could carry. In fact, there was so much it took three days to haul it away.

²⁶On the fourth day they assembled in Blessing Valley, where they blessed the Lord. That's why it is called Blessing Valley to this day. ²⁷Then everyone from Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat at their head, joyfully returned home to Jerusalem because the Lord had given them reason to rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸They entered Jerusalem accompanied by harps, lutes, and trumpets, and they went to the Lord's temple.

²⁹The fear of God came on all the surrounding kingdoms when they heard how the Lord had fought against Israel's enemies. ³⁰As a result, Jehoshaphat's rule was peaceful because his God gave him rest on all sides.

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

(All) Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "Now Thank We All Our God" by J. S. Bach / The Aldersgate Chorale

SERMON: "BLESSING GOD IN THE VALLEY OF BLESSING" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"** by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman / All

Chorus

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.**

**Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.**

Verse 1

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.**

**Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. (Chorus)**

Verse 2

**You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and your heart is kind.**

**For all your goodness I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Chorus)**

Verse 3

**And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come,
still my soul will sing your praise unending,
ten thousand years and then forevermore. (Chorus)**

Instrumental

Ending

**Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name,
worship your holy name,
worship your holy name.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Revelation 1)

(Liturgist) The Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the one who was and is and is to come, invites us to share our blessings with others, as we collect our tithes and offerings.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" by Rebecca Groom te Velde

***DOXOLOGY:** #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken / **All 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**

Gracious and abundant God, like the birds of the air, we can trust your provision. You take care of us. Like the lilies of the field, all that we have is yours. Every good thing is a gift from you. You take care of us. Bless us this Thanksgiving Sunday, and bless the gifts we bring, that in all we make and say and do: trust may grow, beauty may flourish, generosity may flow, and your name may be praised. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin

***SENDING HYMN:** #140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas O. Chisholm and William M. Runyan / **All**

Verse 1

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Verse 2

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION**

(Pastor) We once were broken, but now are whole.

(Congregation) We go with peace in our hearts.

(P) We once were blind, but now we see.

(C) We go with hope for our lives.

(P) We once were lost, but now are found.

(C) We go with joy and thanksgiving.

(P) We once were alone, but now are family.

(All) We go with God. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by John Innes

We are called to pray for:

Pat Beals, Greg Laird, Richard Bennett, Barbara Spencer, Norma Nelson, Mary Herrmann, Michael Thompson, Jim Ashworth, Linda Rydzik, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Mack Davis, John and Susan Page-Logger, Yvonne Peters, Robert and Benita Roberts, LJ Arguelles, Michelle Arguelles, Marge Wolter, Margaret Berger, Chandra Roberts, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Jesse Ruiz Jr., the family of William Waite, the family of William Hunter, the family of Beulah Leake

This Week

Sunday, November 24

- Worship: Christ the King/Reign of C; Thanksgiving Sunday; Rev. J. T. Kim's sermon, "**BLESSING GOD IN THE VALLEY OF BLESSING.**" (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - Meet in Narthex, 10:15 am
- "Hanging of the Greens" to transform the Sanctuary for next Sunday, First Sunday of Advent! - 11 am
- See's Candy Sales/Fundraising (Patio) - 11 am
- The Habit Fundraiser, Riverside Plaza (show flyer in person or on phone) - 11 am to 9:30 pm

Monday, November 25

- Preschool closed for Thanksgiving 11/25 through 11/29
- Church Council Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, November 26

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Thursday, November 28

- Thanksgiving Holiday - Church campus closed

Friday, November 29

- Thanksgiving Holiday - Church campus closed

Sunday, December 1

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15 am - 9:45 am
- Worship (First Sunday of Advent - HOPE). Pastor J. T. Kim's sermon, "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS HOPE!" (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Alternative Gift Fair (Missions) (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am - 3 pm
- See's Candy Sales/Fundraising (Patio) - 11 am

Blue Christmas Services:

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 Noon and 7 pm

Our Blue Christmas Services are offered especially for those hurting during the holidays. The reasons for coming are many. Some come because they are mourning the death of a loved one. Some are far from home. Some suffer from illness, addiction, or estrangement. Some are lonely, struggling financially, or in conflict with another. Some hurt because of the great pain, need, and violence in our nation and world. We gather in the midst of suffering to remember God is good.

God is strong. God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope.

Welcome to this sacred space and time where we seek peace, comfort, and hope.

We seek God's presence -and we seek Jesus...
the Light in the darkness.

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