



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

December 1, 2024 10 am

First Sunday of Advent; Holy Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Savior of the Nations, Come" by Johann Sebastian Bach / Robert Phillips, organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***INTROIT:** "The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed" by Hal H. Hopson / Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT READING** (Adapted from Mark 13) / David Fraser / Liturgist (Liturgist) "Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. Watch, therefore, lest God come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch."

(All) Amen!

***LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE** / Mandy Johnson-Bottrell Family
We light our first Advent Candle today as a reminder that we are watching for Jesus to come. God promised a Savior, and a Savior was born. God keeps all promises, so we watch, knowing Jesus will come again.

(All) Amen!

***ADVENT CANDLE SONG:** "Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting" by Dorothy Christopherson / Led by Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader
First time: The Aldersgate Chorale
Second time: **All**

Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting

(Advent 1) Come, Lord Je - sus, we are wait - ing,
Be our Hope this Ad - vent day.
Hope - ful hearts find room for you. Come
Je - sus, and be our Hope .

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with "(Advent 1)". The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many notes beamed together.

***ADVENT PRAYER** / Liturgist
(Liturgist) Let us pray.

Help us to keep this candle's light shining in our lives, Lord. We are the people who watch and wait for Christmas and want you to come to us again. Stay in our hearts this Advent Season. Amen.

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (1 Thessalonians 3)

(Pastor) May God increase our love for one another and strengthen our hearts in holiness, as we greet one another in peace. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Luke 21) / Led by Pastor Kim

God of every season, as we begin our journey through Advent, turn our hearts toward you. Guide us into your realm of peace and joy. Teach us to set aside our worries, as we walk in faithfulness and trust. May the love within us be born anew. Help us remain alert, that we may respond to pain and suffering and notice the signs of abundant life all around us. Come, Lord Jesus; come to us now, we pray. Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

(All) Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: "Christmas Is Coming" by Joel Raney / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg; The Allegro Ringers, directed by Gayla Lonsbery

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS HOPE!" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #368 "My Hope Is Built" by Edward Mote (Verses 1, 2, & 4) / All**

Verse 1

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain:

**On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

Verse 2

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)**

Verse 4

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Jeremiah 33) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) As God promises to execute justice and righteousness in the world, God invites us to help make this promise a reality. Let us offer our gifts and our lives, that all may be blessed.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" by Lani 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** (1 Thessalonians 3) / Led by Liturgist

We thank you, God, for the joy we feel this day. We are blessed by this community of love, this sanctuary of acceptance. We place our trust in you, knowing that you care for us. With deep gratitude for all you provide to us, we offer our gifts to you. Center our hearts during this season of giving. Amen.

ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(Pastor) Come to the table of God's grace! You who have been fed with the bread of tears, find here the bread of life. You who have drunk the sorrows of life, find here the living water, springing forth with eternal grace. You who need to see God, find here the very presence of Christ, his life and love, ready to nourish us all.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(All) Ever-present God, remind us this day that you are always with us. Strengthen us as we worship together, that we may pay attention to the signs of your presence all around us. When our feet wander, guide us back to your path. When our attention drifts and we lose our way, teach us the way we should go. If we squander the time you have given us, help us prioritize you and your teachings. Remember us according to your faithful love. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we pray. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) Christ be with you.

(People) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(People) We lift them up to God.

(Pastor) Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

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

(Pastor) It is a right, good, and joyful thing always and everywhere to give our thanks to you, who sent the prophet Malachi to announce your coming reign, the priest Zechariah to remind us of your tender mercy, and John the Baptist to proclaim your coming among us in Jesus. You promise to give light to all who are in despair, and to guide our feet on the way of peace.

And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(All sing) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Pastor) Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, whose birth in our hearts we prepare with hope and anticipation, and for whose life, passion, death, and resurrection we give thanks beyond measure.

On the night in which he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, broke it, saying: "Take, eat, all of you. This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat it, do so in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, saying: "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the healing of the world. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All sing) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION PRAYER

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ to a world that sits too often in gloom and fear. Creator of all, Light of the world, Spirit of truth, you are the one God to whom we offer our praise and our thanks.

(All sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

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, forever. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

(Pastor) The loving presence of Christ, shining in your life.

(All) Amen!

(Pastor) Please take your Bread and Cup now here in the sanctuary and at your home if you are partaking in this communion via online or telephone!

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Philip Moore

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants and witnesses to the world. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: #196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" by Charles Wesley / All**
Verse 1

**Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

Verse 2

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Mark 13)

(Pastor) Keep awake; hope is coming to us.

(Congregation) We await God's salvation.

(P) Keep alert; Christ is coming soon.

(C) We await God's blessings.

(P) Be ready; Christ is among us now.

(All) We go with God's blessing. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Finale from 'Partita on Hyfrydol'" by Charles Callahan

In Our Hearts and Prayers

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, DeAnn McWilliams, Courtney Hart, the family of Mimi (Luker) Grimes

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 share the Christmas story through remembrance, scripture, song and hope.

You are welcome to come alone or to bring friends as we seek God's presence and as we seek Jesus...the Light in the darkness.

Peace be with you,

--Rev. Bev Devine

This Week

Sunday, December 1

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 8:45 am
- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15 am - 9:45 am
- Worship: First Sunday of Advent (HOPE); Communion Sunday; 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
- See's Candy Sales Fundraiser (Front Lawn) - 11 am
- Alternative Gift Fair (Fellowship Hall, Patio) - 11 am

Monday, December 2

- Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm
- Board of Trustees Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, December 3

- Parents' Morning Out Children's Ministry (Nursery) - 9 am - 12 pm
- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (MPR) - 7 pm
- Blue Christmas Worship (Sanctuary) - 12 pm and 7 pm

Wednesday, December 4

- Pastor's Advent Study (1/3), "Christmas Letters" (Zoom) - 7 pm

Friday, December 6

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 am
- Poinsettia Plant Dedications deadline! Email: secretary@firstchurchriverside.org

Saturday, December 7

- Santa's Workshop Outreach Event (Fellowship Hall) - 1 pm - 3 pm

Sunday, December 8

- Worship: Second Sunday of Advent; Pastor J. T. Kim's sermon, "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS PEACE," and Children and Youth offer "Rejoice! A Christmas Performance of Songs and Scriptures" (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am - 11 am
- Youth Worship (Meet in Narthex after Children's Moment) - 10:15 am
- See's Candy Sales Fundraiser (Front Lawn) - 11 am
- United Methodist Men Lunch with traditional Christmas Sing-along, led by Jeff Ashworth. Also, a delicious lunch will be served! (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am

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Introit: "The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed" by Hal H. Hopson. ©1981 Lorenz Publishing Company, OneLicense Song #1034327, OneLicense #A735776.

Prayer Response: "Give Ear to Our Prayer, O God" by Hal H. Hopson. ©1981 Lorenz Publishing Company, OneLicense Song #1050638, OneLicense #A735776.

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