



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

January 5, 2025 10 am

Order of Worship

**Epiphany Sunday; New Year's Sunday;
Holy Communion Sunday**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "We Three Kings" by Alec Wyton / Robert Phillips, organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** #220 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" by James Montgomery
/ Led by Kris Lovekin

Verse 1

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Verse 2

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]**

Verse 3

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Verse 4

**Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Isaiah 60, Matthew 2) / Led by Steve Kerrick, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Bring your gifts and bring your love to honor the King of love.

**(Congregation) Bring your worship and bring your praise to pay homage to Christ
Jesus, our King.**

(All) Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Psalm 72)

(Pastor) May peace prosper among us until the moon is no more. May we share signs of
peace and love to sustain us in this New Year. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) / (UM Hymnal #255, "Epiphany" / **All** (Led by Pastor Kim)

**O God, you made of one blood all nations,
and, by a star in the East,
revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel.**

**Enable us who know your presence with us
so to proclaim his unsearchable riches
that all may come to his light
and bow before the brightness of his rising,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Danish)

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

(Congregation) Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: "Star of Bethlehem" by Leslie Bricusse and John Williams, arranged by Tom Fettke / Aldersgate Chorale

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Visit of the Magi

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "THE THREE GIFTS FOR JESUS AND OUR THREE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION:** #254 "We Three Kings" by John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Verse 1

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Verse 2

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Verse 3

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Verse 4

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Verse 5

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Isaiah 60, Matthew 2)

(Liturgist) On this day of celebration, let us bring our gifts, as sages of old once brought gifts to Christ the King. May our gifts become the light of Christ for the world.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright" by Alec Wyton

***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** (Isaiah 60, Matthew 2) / Liturgist

**Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of Christmas.
Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts to your world. Bless the gifts we bring, that
they may become vessels of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION (NEW YEAR; EPIPHANY)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(P) Lift up your hearts.

(C) We lift them up to the Lord.

(P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

(Pastor) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All sing)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

(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 & SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Pastor) For those who are here in person, you are invited to come forward to take communion elements with three options:

(1) You can take the communion in a traditional way. Take a piece of Bread and dip it into the Cup, then eat it. (2) Or you can simply take a "Fellowship Cup," which includes both elements, from the basket and eat it in your seat. It's your choice. (3) If desired, you may take a "Gluten Free Fellowship Cup" from the special basket.

For those who are at home, via online or telephone, please take your own Bread and Cup now.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "Paraphrases of Gregorian Chants for Epiphany" by Charles Tournemire

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN:** #245 "The First Noel" / Traditional English Carol

Verse 1

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Verse 3

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

Verse 4

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Verse 5

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Isaiah 60, Ephesians 3)

(Pastor) Arise; shine!

(Congregation) The world needs our light.

(P) Go forth with grace and love.

(C) Every person needs our grace and love.

(P) Go forth with the gift of Christ's presence.

(All) Christ's presence will save us all. Amen.

POSTLUDE: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" by Dietrich Buxtehude

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Ed Lamers, Melissa Williams, Robin Renteria, Desmond Renteria, Bill and Helen Nuchols,
David Fraser, Pat Beals, Greg Laird, Barbara Spencer, Norma Nelson, Mary Herrmann,
Michael Thompson, Jim Ashworth, Linda Rydzik, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Mack Davis,
Yvonne Peters, Robert and Benita Roberts, LJ Arguelles, Michelle Arguelles, Marge Wolter,
Chandra Roberts, Jesse Ruiz Jr., De'Ann McWilliams, the family of William Waite,
the family of Margaret Berger, the family of Pat Williams

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, January 5

- Chapel Prayer Circle (Chapel) - 9:15 am - 9:45 pm
- Youth Bells rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Epiphany Sunday / New Year's Sunday / Holy Communion Sunday (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Church and Society/Missions meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 11:15 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Group (Youth Room) - 5 pm

Monday, January 6

- Preschool closed
- Trustees Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm
- Worship Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, January 7

- Preschool resumes
- Parents Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 am - 12 pm
- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Wednesday, January 8

- UWF Executive Meeting (Zoom) - 1 pm
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, January 9

- UWF Lunch Bunch (Off Campus) - 11 am
- UWF Bible Study "Jesus in Me" (1 of 8 sessions) (Zoom) - 7 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, January 10

- Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 am
- Celebration of Margaret Berger's Life (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Reception (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am

Saturday, January 11

- Refill the Backpacks, Outreach Committee (Asbury) - 10 am

Sunday, January 12

- Youth Bells rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 9:30 am
- Baptism of the Lord Sunday (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am

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