



# Sunday Worship

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

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## Order of Worship

February 23, 2025 10 am

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany  
Black History Month

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," African-American spiritual arranged by J. Stuart Archer / Robert Phillips, Organist

### \*TRINITY BELLS

\***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #521** "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me," African-American spiritual arranged by William Farley Smith / Led by Jennifer Walker, Hymn Leader / **All**

#### Verse 1

I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)  
I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)

#### Verse 2

In my trials, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)  
When my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)

#### Verse 3

When I'm troubled, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)  
When I'm troubled, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)  
When my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (walk with me)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 37, Genesis 45, Luke 6) / John McDonald, Liturgist  
(Liturgist) In these uncertain times, we come together, searching for peace.

**(Congregation) We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.**

(L) We will open our hearts and minds, that the Lord may show us mercy.

**(C) When we trust the Lord, we can do good things and live with one another in peace and security.**

(L) The Lord is our refuge in times of trouble. In God, we find forgiveness, mercy, and love.

**(All) We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Amen!**

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

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Genesis 45, Psalm 37, Luke 6)

(Pastor) May the peace of Christ find you on your journey toward grace and mercy. May the grace of forgiveness and the kindness of mercy dwell in your hearts today. Peace be with you!

**(All) Peace be with you!**

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

-Sharing of Joys & Concerns

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER / 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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** "Amen" (Danish)

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Christina Graves

**INTERLUDE:** "This Little Light of Mine," arranged by Kurt Meyer / The Allegro Ringers, directed by Gayla Lonsberry

**SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 2:6-10** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

***Fullness of Life in Christ***

**<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup>Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ.**

**<sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.**

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

**(All) Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM:** "The Lord Is Beautiful (Nimemwona Bwana)," Tanzanian traditional, arranged by Michael Burkhardt / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg, with soloist Jennifer Walker and drummer Josh Ponnuraju

Translation: We have seen the Lord, and He is beautiful.

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:27-36** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

***Love Your Enemies***

**<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.**

**<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.**

**<sup>35</sup> "Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**SERMON: "STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD"** (Part 1 of 2): "John Wesley's Three Simple Rules"  
Sermon Series (#5 of 6) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #375** "There Is a Balm in Gilead," African-American spiritual  
**/ All**

**Refrain:**

**There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

### Verse 1

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
and think my work's in vain.  
But then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again.

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

### Verse 2

Don't ever feel discouraged,  
for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you look for knowledge  
he'll ne'er refuse to lend. (Refrain)

### Verse 3

If you can't preach like Peter,  
if you can't pray like Paul,  
just tell the love of Jesus,  
and say he died for all. (Refrain)

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** (Genesis 45, Luke 6, Psalm 37) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us bring our offering of our money, prayer, and labor to advance our God's work of mercy.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "There Is a Balm in Gilead," African-American spiritual arranged by Gilbert M. Martin

**\*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** (Genesis 45, Luke 6, Psalm 37) / All (Led by Liturgist)

**Holy God, we willingly and joyfully celebrate your generosity, by sharing our abundance with the church, our community, and the world. Bless these gifts, as they go forth to do good in your world without judgment or prejudice. Amen.**

**LAITY BLESSINGS** / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

**\*SENDING HYMN: #703** "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," African-American spiritual / **All**

**Refrain:**

**Swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home;  
swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home.**

**Verse 1**

**I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,  
coming for to carry me home?  
A band of angels coming after me,  
coming for to carry me home. (Refrain)**

**Verse 2**

**If you get there before I do,  
coming for to carry me home;  
tell all my friends I'm coming too,  
coming for to carry me home. (Refrain)**

**Verse 3**

**I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down,  
coming for to carry me home;  
but still my soul feels heavenly bound,  
coming for to carry me home. (Refrain)**

**Verse 4**

**The brightest day that I can say,  
coming for to carry me home;  
when Jesus washed my sins away,  
coming for to carry me home. (Refrain)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me," African-American spiritual arranged by Calvin Taylor

*In Our Hearts and Prayers:*

Ryan Dungan, John and Susan Logger, Daryl Salmon, Ed Lamers,  
Bill and Helen Nuchols, Melissa Williams, Pat Beals, Norma Nelson, Mary Herrmann,  
Michael Thompson, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Mack Davis, Yvonne Peters,  
Robert and Benita Roberts, LJ Arguelles, Michelle Arguelles, Marge Wolter, De'Ann McWilliams,  
Desmond Renteria, Ruben Renteria, the family of Robin Renteria, the family of Bill Woodard,  
the family of Pat Williams, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

## *This Week*

### **Sunday, February 23**

- Worship – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, Pastor J. T. Kim’s sermon, **“STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD”** (Part 1 of 2); Allegro Ringers (Sanctuary) – 10 a.m.
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am – 11 am
- Youth Worship (meet in narthex at 10:15) (Youth Room) – 10:15 am
- The Habit Fundraiser, 3555 Riverside Plaza Drive; must show flyer or mention fundraiser to server or show on cell phone; Church will earn 20% of sales – 11 am – 9:30 pm

### **Monday, February 24**

- Church Council (Zoom) – 7 pm

### **Tuesday, February 25**

- Parents’ Morning Out (Nursery) – 9 am – noon
- Bell rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 pm

### **Wednesday, February 26**

- The Response Band rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 pm

### **Thursday, February 27**

- UWF Bible Study: “Jesus in Me – Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion” (Zoom) – 6:45 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) – 7 pm

### **Friday, February 28**

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

### **Saturday, March 1**

- Cal-Pac Conference for “Next Generation of Pastors/Young People Workers” (Fellowship Hall) – 10 am – 2 pm

### **Sunday, March 2**

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) – 9:15 am – 9:45 am
- Worship – Transfiguration Sunday; Communion; sermon, **“STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD”** (Part 2 of 2) (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am – 11 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) – 5 pm
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am

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