



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

March 2, 2025 10 am

Transfiguration Sunday - Holy Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" by Dale Wood / Robert Phillips, Organist

*TRINITY BELLS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #384** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" by Charles Wesley
/ Led by Steve Kerrick, Hymn Leader / **All**

Verse 1

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**

Verse 2

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

Verse 3

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

Verse 4

**Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Luke 9, 2 Corinthians 3, Transfiguration) / Led by Josephine Essien,
Liturgist

(Liturgist) Christ has called us here,

(Congregation) inviting us to offer praise and prayer.

(L) May Christ's presence be revealed in this time,

(C) showing us the way to go.

(L) May Christ's glory shine into our worship,

(All) that Christ's glory may shine in our lives. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Psalm 99, Luke 9)

(Pastor) We are here today to worship God, whom we together praise and trust. We are the children of God, siblings in one big family. Out of the joy and hope of the faith that we share, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

INVITATION TO THE 2025 CROP HUNGER WALK / Kevin Simpson

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (UM Hymn #881) / **All**

(Pastor) Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

(All) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

(Pastor) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(All) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

(Pastor) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(All) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

*universal

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Danish)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

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

Fullness of Life in Christ

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸Watch 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. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and 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: "With a Voice of Singing" by Martin Shaw / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: John 15:5-16** (NIV) / Liturgist

Remain in Jesus

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD" (Part 2 of 2): "John Wesley's Three Simple Rules"

Sermon Series (#6 of 6) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #451** "Be Thou My Vision," ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, versed by Eleanor H. Hull; harm. by Carlton R. Young

Verse 1

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

Verse 2

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

Verse 3

**Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 99, Luke 9, 2 Corinthians 3) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) As individuals and as the church, one of the ways we shine in the world is by giving to others through our own skills and talents, as well as through our gifts of money. In so doing, we participate in the great plan of God to transform our world. So let us give with joy, as we are able.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "When We Are Living" by Charles Callahan

***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** (Luke 9, 2 Corinthians 3, Transfiguration) / Led by Liturgist

Glorious God, shine through this offering we now return to you. May our gifts and our very lives bless your world and reveal your love. In gratitude, we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(Congregation) We lift them up to God.

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

(All) It is right to give God 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. From ancient times, you brought forth light from primordial darkness, created us in your image, called us to be your people, and shone through us with your love.

When we wandered in darkness and became lost in grumbling and fear, you led us as a pillar of light and beckoned us home. In the words of prophets and poets, you called us to return to your light, offering us a vision of renewal and promising us a better future.

And in the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Christ Jesus, the Light of the World, to redeem us with love and grace, invite us to walk in the light, and shine as light for the world. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(All singing)

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 child of light, Christ Jesus. With humble gratitude, we remember the night when the darkness of impending death began closing in.

Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to disciples, who had witnessed the glory of his transfiguration and who would soon witness his death, saying:

"Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Drink from this, all of you. This is my life, 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 of love and light, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving. As your covenant people and as reflections of your glory, in union with Christ's love for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May these be for us your life and love, shining through us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Through these gifts, may all be one with you, one with each other, and one in the ministry of love and light to the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at your heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forevermore. Amen.

(All singing) 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: "Adagio from Partita on 'Slane'" by Charles Callahan

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: #356** "Pues Si Vivimos (When We Are Living)," trans. by Elise S. Eslinger, Roberto Escamilla, George Lockwood

Verse 1

**When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Verse 2

**Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Verse 3

**'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Verse 4

**Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Fanfare: Shine, Jesus, Shine" by Christopher Tambling

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Ryan Dungan, Donna Woodard, 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, Michelle Arguelles, Marge Wolter, De'Ann McWilliams,
Desmond Renteria, Ruben Renteria, the family of Robin Renteria,
the family of Pat Williams, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

This Week

Sunday, March 2

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15-9:45 am
- Worship - Transfiguration Sunday/Holy Communion Sunday (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 11:15 am

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 5

- Ash Wednesday Services (Sanctuary) - 12 noon and 7 pm with Wesley UMC

Thursday, March 6

- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 9

- Worship - First Sunday of Lent, Pastor Kim's New Lenten Sermon Series ("Rise Again!") continues (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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