



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 10 am

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "For the Healing of the Nations" by John H. Behnke / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #428** "For the Healing of the Nations" by Fred Kaan / **All** / Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word)
help us rise and pledge our word.**

Verse 2

**Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase, (hope increase)
fear will die and hope increase.**

Verse 3

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span, (life's brief span)
may we hallow life's brief span.**

Verse 4

**You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find, (may find)
earth its destiny may find.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Isaiah 55, Psalm 63) / Led by David Fraser, Liturgist
(Liturgist) The table is set. The banquet is laid.

(People) Our souls hunger and thirst for God.

(L) Our gracious host welcomes us here.

(P) God's steadfast love is better than life.

(L) Sing for joy in the shadow of God's wings.

(All) We have come to praise the living God. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Isaiah 55, Psalm 63)

(Pastor) The Lord offers us everything we need without price. In celebration of this great gift, let us share our joy by passing the peace of Christ with one another.
Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Isaiah 55, Psalm 63, 1 Corinthians 10) / **All**

Lord of overflowing abundance, we praise you with joyful lips and bless you with uplifted hands. When our souls are parched, you offer us wine and milk without price and satisfy our hunger. Guard us when we stand for what is right, and save us from the time of trial, that we may be worthy disciples of your Son, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

INTERLUDE: "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land" by Ronald A. Nelson / Robert Phillips, organist

SCRIPTURE READING: Joshua 2:1-24 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Spies Sent to Jericho

¹ Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there. ²The king of Jericho was told, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land." ³Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out the whole land." ⁴But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. ⁵And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them." ⁶She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. ⁷So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸ Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land and that dread of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you.

The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. ¹² Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith ¹³ that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴ The men said to her, "Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land."

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. ¹⁶ She said to them, "Go toward the hill country, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers have returned; then afterward you may go your way."

¹⁷ The men said to her, "We will be released from this oath that you have made us swear to you ¹⁸ if we invade the land and you do not tie this crimson cord in the window through which you let us down and you do not gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your family. ¹⁹ If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and we shall be innocent, but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be released from this oath that you made us swear to you." ²¹ She said, "According to your words, so be it." She sent them away, and they departed. Then she tied the crimson cord in the window.

²² They departed and went into the hill country and stayed there three days, until the pursuers returned. The pursuers had searched all along the way and found nothing. ²³ Then the two men came down again from the hill country. They crossed over, came to Joshua son of Nun, and told him all that had happened to them. ²⁴ They said to Joshua, "Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands; moreover, all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before us."

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

(All) Amen.

ANTHEM: "At Thy Feet" by J. S. Bach / The Aldersgate Chorale

***GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 1:1-17 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

¹ An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴ and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "RAHAB: FROM GENTILE WOMAN WITH DARK PAST TO SAINT AND BEYOND" (Lenten Sermon Series, "Rise Again!": #4 of 7) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #472** "Near to the Heart of God" by Cleland B. McAfee / **All Verse 1**

There is a place of quiet rest,
near to the heart of God;
a place where sin cannot molest,
near to the heart of God.

Refrain:

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee
near to the heart of God.

Verse 2

There is a place of comfort sweet,
near to the heart of God;
a place where we our Savior meet,
near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

Verse 3

There is a place of full release,
near to the heart of God;
a place where all is joy and peace,
near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 63) / Liturgist

God is generous, and His faithful love is a constant blessing. As we have been blessed, so may we now be a blessing to others by presenting our sincere gifts and our committed lives.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Near to the Heart of God" by John Innes

***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 13) / All / Led by Liturgist

**Loving God, you have set the table before us and given us every good thing. In
gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings. Accept
our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit and that we may
enter into your glory. Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #369** "Blessed Assurance" by Fanny Crosby / All

Verse 1

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

Verse 2

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Isaiah 55, Psalm 63)

(Pastor) Seek the Lord while God may be found.

(Congregation) We will call upon the Lord, while God is near.

(P) Embrace the paths that lead to life.

(C) We will return to our God.

(P) Seek the Lord while God may be found.

(All) We will call upon the Lord, while God is near. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Prelude on Blessed Assurance" by Gordon Young

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Chandra and Jaswant Roberts, Norma Nelson, Elizabeth Wood-Baisie, Sharon and Jerrilynn Henry, John and Susan Logger, Ed Lamers, Michael Thompson, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Melissa Williams, Pat Beals, Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Mack Davis, Yvonne Peters, Robert and Benita Roberts, Michelle Arguelles, Marge Wolter, De'Ann McWilliams, the family of Ruben Renteria, the family of Bill Woodard, Christina Graves' family, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

New Members Welcoming Sunday

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

If you would like to join First UMC of Riverside as your "Home Church," or have questions about the process, please contact Pastor Kim (pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org) or Church Office (951-683-7831) as soon as possible.

We'd love to welcome you joyfully on this coming Easter Sunday!

This Week

Sunday, March 23

- Worship - Third Sunday of Lent, Pastor Kim's Lenten sermon series "Rise Again!" (RAHAB) (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- Hosting Crop Walk (Patio) - 1:30 pm

Monday, March 24

- March 24-28 - Preschool Spring Break
- Church Council meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, March 25

- Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm
- Outreach Committee Mtg. (Zoom) - 6 pm

Wednesday, March 26

- Lenten Soup Supper Speaker: Claire Jefferson Glipa, "Family Promise" (Fellowship Hall) - 6 pm
- Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 27

- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, March 28

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

Sunday, March 30

- Worship - Fourth Sunday of Lent, Pastor Kim's Lenten sermon series "Rise Again!" (JONAH) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- The Habit Fundraiser - 11 am - 9 pm. 3555 Riverside Plaza Drive, Suite S-100. Must show flyer or mention fundraiser to server or show on cell phone; church will earn 20% of sales.

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