



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday April 13, 2025 10 am

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" by Michael Burkhardt / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS** / Robert Phillips, Organist

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #278** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" by William H. Parker / Steve Kerrick, Hymn Leader / **All**

Verse 1

**Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.**

Verse 2

**From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.**

Verse 3

**"Hosanna in the highest!"
that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice!**

***PALM PROCESSION**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Luke 19) / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Our king has come riding on a donkey.

(Congregation) Hosanna in the highest!

(L) Our savior has come to waving palms and cheers of praise.

(C) **Shout alleluia!**

(L) Jesus has come to show us the greatness of God's love.

(All) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Luke 19, 22-23)

(Pastor) The peace of Christ does not come from the excitement of parades with loud shouts of "Hosanna to the son of David!" The peace of Christ comes from resting in the promise of life in his name. Let us share this peace with one another. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

RECOGNITIONS & APPRECIATIONS (2025 LENTEN SOUP SUPPER SPEAKERS)

David & Shari Nelson (3/12), Rev. Bev Devine (3/19), Claire Jefferson-Glipa (3/26),
Dr. Selin Yildiz Nielsen (4/2), & Steve Kerrick (4/9)

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (Passion/Palm Sunday, UMH #281) / **ALL** / Led by Pastor

Almighty God,

you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,

to suffer death on the cross.

Grant that we may share in his obedience to your will

and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and ever. Amen

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING I: Acts 9:1-22 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Conversion of Saul

¹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul Preaches in Damascus

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"

22 Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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

(All) Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "Hosanna, Hosanna!" by Joseph M. Martin and J. Paul Williams / The Aldersgate Chorale

SCRIPTURE READING II: Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Imitating Christ's Humility

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

**6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,**

**7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.**

And being found in appearance as a human,

**8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.**

**9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,**

**10 so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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

(All) Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "PAUL: FROM A VICIOUS PERSECUTOR OF CHRISTIANS TO THE MOST ARDENT DEFENDER OF CHRISTIANITY" (Lenten Sermon Series, "**Rise Again!**" #7 of 7) /

The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #277 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" by William H. Parker / All Verse 1**

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

Verse 2

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Verse 3

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 118) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us give thanks to God, who is faithful and good. Let us give thanks by sharing our tithes and offerings this morning.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" by Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

***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** (Philippians 2, Luke 22-23) / Led by Liturgist

We thank you, O God, for your generous Spirit; we praise you for Christ's gift of self, and your never-failing love. For your many gifts, we thank you. For walking with us in our weakness, we praise you. Receive these gifts in token and thanks for the love you offer us—a love that makes us well and whole. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #286** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"—Anonymous Latin text / **All**

Verse 1

**O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
which once was bright as morn!**

Verse 2

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
look on me with thy favor,
vouchsafe to me thy grace.

Verse 3

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Psalm 118)

(Pastor) On the back of a donkey,

(Congregation) Jesus came to bless us.

(P) With the light of his love,

(C) Jesus came to illumine our way.

(P) From the power of aimlessness and sin,

(C) Jesus came to set us free.

(P) With the power of the Holy Spirit,

(C) Jesus came to save us.

(P) Go with the blessings of God's anointed.

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (Opus 122, No. 9)" by Johannes Brahms

We are called to pray for:

Jennifer Mahl, Terry Connolly, Chandra and Jaswant Roberts, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers,
John and Susan Logger, 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 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). We'd love to welcome you joyfully on this coming Easter Sunday!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, April 13

- Worship – Palm/Passion Sunday with Palm Procession; sermon: PAUL – 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) – 10:15 am
- UMM Luncheon / Guest speaker: Kristin Stolte (Fellowship Hall) – 11:15 am

Tuesday, April 15

- Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 7 pm

Wednesday, April 16

- UWF "Walk About" – 8:30 am
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 17

- Maundy Thursday, FUMCOR congregation is invited to WESLEY UMC, 5770 Arlington Ave., Riverside, with combined choirs, and Robert Phillips, organist. Led by Rev. Justin Berkobien and Rev. J. T. Kim – 7 pm

Friday, April 18

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) – 7 am
- Church office closes at noon for Good Friday
- Good Friday Worship, joint service with Wesley UMC at FUMCOR, led by Rev. J. T. Kim and Rev. Justin Berkobien – 7 pm

Sunday, April 20, EASTER!

- Easter Sunday: Music: Allegro Ringers, Aldersgate Chorale, Brass Ensemble and Robert Phillips, organist; and celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and New Members (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Easter Egg Hunt and Butterfly Release (Front Lawn) – 11:15 am

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