



# Sunday Worship

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

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## Order of Worship

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 18, 2025 10 am**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" by Dale Wood / Robert Phillips, Organist

### **\*TRINITY BELLS**

**\*INTROIT:** "Easter Fanfare" by E. E. Ferguson / The Aldersgate Chorale (Directed by Yvonne Flagg)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Acts 11, Revelation 21, John 13) / Led by Josephine Essien, Liturgist  
(Liturgist) The One who loves without distinction calls us here.

**(People) They will know we are Christians by our love.**

(L) The One who loves us completely welcomes us home.

**(P) They will know we are Christians by our love.**

(L) The One who loves us well rejoices in our presence.

**(All) They will know we are Christians by our love. Amen!**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "Thy Word" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith / Led by The Response

### **Chorus**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

### **Verse 1**

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,**

**still you're there right beside me,**

**nothing will I fear**

**as long as you are near.**

**Please be near me to the end.**

### **Chorus**

### **Instrumental**

### **Chorus**

## **Verse 2**

**I will not forget your love for me, and yet  
my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side,  
and I will love you to the end.**

### **Chorus**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
And a light unto my path.**

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

### **\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Acts 11)

(Pastor) Look with the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may see one another as God sees you. Share the wonder of the vision before you, as you exchange signs of Christ's peace. Peace be with you!

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

### **THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

Sharing of joys and concerns

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT** / Christina Graves

**INTERLUDE:** "The Lion and the Lamb" by Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, and Leeland Mooring / The Response and The Bell Tree

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Revelation 21:1-6 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

*The New Heaven and the New Earth*

**<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,**

**"See, the home of God is among mortals.**

**He will dwell with them;**

**they will be his peoples,**

**and God himself will be with them and be their God;**

**<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.**

**"Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."**

**<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."**

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

**(All) Amen.**

**ANTHEM:** "May Jesus Christ Be Praised!" by Lloyd Larson / The Aldersgate Chorale

**\*GOSPEL READING:** John 13:31-35 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

*The New Commandment*

**<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**SERMON: "HEAVENLY EVER AFTER"** (Introduction to a new sermon series, **"Five Marks of a Methodist,"** #1 of 7) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION:** "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

**Verse 1**

**I am weak but thou art strong.  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong.  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk—dear Lord, close to thee.**

**Chorus**

**Just a closer walk with thee—  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea.  
Daily walking close to Thee.  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**Instrumental**

**Chorus**

## **Verse 2**

Through this world of toil and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

### **Chorus**

Just a closer walk with thee—  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea.  
Daily walking close to thee.  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

## **Verse 3**

When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more.  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

### **Chorus**

Just a closer walk with thee—  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea.  
Daily walking close to thee.  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** (Revelation 21, John 13) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) If we truly believed God dwells among us, would we live differently? Would we love differently? Would we give differently? Truly I tell you, God dwells among us even now. Let us share our faith and our love accordingly, as we collect this morning's offering.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" by Wilbur Held

**\*OFFERING SONG:** "As We Seek Your Face"/"Jesus, Draw Me Close" by Dave Bilbraugh and Rick Founds / **All** / Led by Rev. Bev Devine

**As we seek your face, may we know your heart;  
feel your presence, acceptance, as we seek your face.  
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.  
Let the world around me fade away.  
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.  
For I desire to worship and obey.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Acts 11, John 13) / **All** / Led by Liturgist

**God of mystery, you promise us a life of blessedness, if only we would learn to love,  
as you have loved us. May the gifts we bring before you this day  
be a sign of our commitment to love one another well. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: "My Lighthouse" by Chris Llewellyn and Gareth Gilkeson / All**

**Verse 1**

In my wrestling and in my doubts,  
in my failures, you won't walk out.  
Your great love will lead me through.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea. (oh-oh)  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

**Verse 2**

In the silence, you won't let go.  
In the questions, your truth will hold.  
Your great love will lead me through.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea. (oh-oh)  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

**Chorus**

My lighthouse, my lighthouse,  
shining in the darkness, I will follow you. (oh-oh)  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse,  
I will trust the promise,  
you will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore,  
safe to shore, safe to shore.

**Verse 3**

I won't fear what tomorrow brings.  
With each morning I'll rise and sing.  
My God's love will lead me through.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea. (oh-oh)  
You are the peace in my troubled sea. (oh-oh)

**Chorus**

**Bridge**

Fire before us, you're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms.  
Fire before us, you're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms.  
Fire before us, you're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms.  
Fire before us, you're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms.

**Chorus**

My lighthouse, my lighthouse,  
shining in the darkness, I will follow you. (oh-oh)  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise,  
you will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore,  
safe to shore, safe to shore.

**\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (John 13)

(Pastor) Christ has given us a new commandment.

**(Congregation) We will love one another well.**

(P) God guides us to love the stranger.

**(C) We will love one another well.**

(P) The Spirit blesses with a new vision.

**(All) We will love one another well. Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** "Toccata: Jesus, Lover of My Soul" by David Bednall

*In Our Hearts and Prayers:*

Reuben Muñoz, Kenneth Geiger, Fale, Christian Cooper, Emilie Gorham, Carol Falletta, Terry Connolly, Norma Nelson, Sharon and Jerrilynn Henry, John and Susan Logger, Ed Lamers, Michael Thompson, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Pat Beals, Mack Davis, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Yvonne Peters, Marge Wolter, Robert and Benita Roberts, Michelle Arguelles, De'Ann McWilliams, the family of Chandra Roberts, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Sunday, May 18

- Worship – Fifth Sunday of Easter. Sermon, **"HEAVENLY EVER AFTER"** (introduction to Pastor Kim's new sermon series, *"Five Marks of a Methodist,"* #1 of 7). Family Sunday with The Response and The Bell Tree (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am

Monday, May 19

- Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom) – 5:30 pm

Tuesday, May 20

- Summer "Parents Morning Out" begins! May 20 to August 1, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Reservations encouraged: Christina Graves, (951) 212-5725, [childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org](mailto:childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org) – (Nursery) – 9 am – 12 pm
- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) – 7 pm

Wednesday, May 21

- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) – 8:30 am
- Summer "Parents Morning Out" (see info above) – (Nursery) – 9 am – 12 pm
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 22

- Summer "Parents Morning Out" (see info above) – (Nursery) – 9 am – 12 pm
- Online Directory Photo Shoot (Fellowship Hall) – (6 pm – 8 pm)
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) – 7 pm

Friday, May 23

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

Saturday, May 24

- Celebration of Life for Chandra Roberts (Sanctuary) – 12 pm

### Sunday, May 25

- Worship – Sixth Sunday of Easter (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Youth Worship continues through summer (meet in narthex), 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays (Youth Room) – 10:15 am
- “The Habit” Fundraiser, 3555 Riverside Plaza Drive, Suite S-100. Must show printed flyer or show flyer on cell phone. Church will earn 20% of sales. 11 am– 9 pm

### Monday, May 26

- Memorial Day/Holiday – Church office will be closed.

### Tuesday, May 27

- Church Council Meeting (Zoom) – 7 pm

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