



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

August 31, 2025 10 am Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "When God Restored Our Common Life" by Charles Callahan / Robert Phillips,
 Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Jeremiah 2, Psalm 81) / Daryl Salmon, Liturgist
 (Liturgist) Sing in exaltation, people of God.

(Congregation) The Lord fills us with good things.

(L) Shout for joy, children of the Holy One.

(C) God feeds us with finest wheat.

(L) God satisfies us with the sweetest honey.

(All) The Lord sustains us with living water. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN: #140** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas O. Chisholm / **All** / Steve
 Kerrick, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;
 thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
 as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Verse 2

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Jeremiah 2)

(Pastor) We worship the One who brings us living water when we look to cracked cisterns. In gratitude and joy for God's gracious gifts, let us share signs of the blessed peace we find in Christ, our Lord. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

-“BACK-TO-CHURCH” VIDEO (2 of 5) / Media Team

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Hebrews 13)

Help us show hospitality to strangers, Merciful One, for many have entertained angels unaware while doing so. Move us to treat one another as we would have others treat us, lest we find ourselves tortured or imprisoned with no one to come to our aid. May we always seek to do good and share from our abundance, for these things are pleasing in your sight. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Service Well-Pleasing to God

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Johann Sebastian Bach / Quartet: Steve Kerrick, Jennifer Mahl, Valerie Othon, and Josh Ponnuraju, accompanied by Robert Phillips

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "THE 'SANKOFA' BIRD: A CONCLUSION OF 'OUR NEW VISION'" (Sermon Series, **"Our New Vision,"** #5 of 5) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #2182** "When God Restored Our Common Life" by Ruth Duck /
All

Verse 1

**When God restored our common life, our hope, our liberty,
 at first it seemed a passing dream, a waking fantasy.
 A shock of joy swept over us, for we had wept so long;
 the seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.**

Verse 2

**We went forth weeping, sowing seeds in hard, unyielding soil;
 with laughing hearts we carry home the fruit of all our toil.
 We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.
 The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.**

Verse 3

**Great liberating God, we pray for all who are oppressed.
 May those who long for what is right with justice now be blest.
 We pray for those who mourn this day, and all who suffer wrong;
 may seeds they water now with tears spring up into a song.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Jeremiah 2, Psalm 81, Luke 14) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) God frees us from self-interest and folly. God brings us into a land of choicest wheat and sweetest honey. Now let us joyfully give of our time, treasure, and talent for the work of God's church in the world.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Offertory on 'Dennis'" by Gordon Young

***DOXOLOGY: #95** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken / **All**
**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** (Jeremiah 2, Psalm 81, Luke 14) / Led by Liturgist

**Loving God, as we return a portion of these gifts to you, may we extend the
 banquet of your love to all, especially the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,
 and all who suffer. May our offering bring healing and light to a world filled with
 anguish and despair. Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #557** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" by John Fawcett / **All**

Verse 1

**Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

Verse 2

**Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

Verse 3

**We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

Verse 4

**When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by John Innes

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Bob Finch, Liz Jennings, Donna Woodard, Emilie Gorham, George Callow,
Bill Ashworth, Ruth Lipps, Calvin Narayan and Shail Singh, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers,
John and Susan Logger, Michael Thompson, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Pat Beals, Mack Davis,
Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Marge Wolter,
Michelle Arguelles, Robert and Benita Roberts, De'Ann McWilliams, Jazz Roberts' family,
Gaddiel Gwira's family (Josephine Essien, Billy Gwira, and Nana Gwira),
our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 am – 2 pm (951) 683-7831

Online at Facebook Live: <https://facebook.com/firstchurchriverside/live>

Email: fumc@FirstChurchRiverside.org Web: FirstChurchRiverside.org

Phone Live: (877) 775-5136

This Week

Sunday, August 31

- Worship: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Kim's sermon, **"THE 'SANKOFA' BIRD: A CONCLUSION OF OUR NEW VISION"** (Sermon Series, **'Our New Vision,'** #5 of 5) (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am

September is "Back-To-Church" Month: "Life is Better Together"

Monday, September 1

- Labor Day Holiday (Church office, campus, and preschool closed)

Tuesday, September 2

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) – 7 pm

Wednesday, September 3

- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) – 7:30 am
- The Response Band rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 4

- UWF Bible Study "Signs and Secrets of the Messiah" by Rabbi Jason. Social time, 6:45 pm. Bible study starts at 7 pm. If you have not attended (or need more information) before the study begins, contact Karen Eagens at kkeagans@aol.com or Lyn Knowles at daselwon@aol.com to get your Zoom invite.
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) – 7 pm

Friday, September 5

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

Sunday, September 7

- Chapel Prayer – 9:15 am
- Worship: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, with Holy Communion. Pastor Kim's sermon, **"AN INTRODUCTION TO LIFE TOGETHER"** (New Sermon Series, **"Life Is Better Together"** (#1 of 5)) (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Church and Society/Missions Meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am
- English Country Dance (1st and 3rd Sundays) (Fellowship Hall) – 3 pm
- Uplift Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) – 5 pm

Music Copyright License Information

Prelude: "When God Restored Our Common Life" by Charles Callahan. ©1992 Concordia Publishing House, OneLicense #A735776.

Opening Hymn: #140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas O. Chisholm. Public domain.

Interlude: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Johann Sebastian Bach. Public domain.

Hymn of Dedication: #2182 "When God Restored Our Common Life" by Ruth Duck. ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc., OneLicense Song #00642, OneLicense #A735776.

Offertory: "Offertory on 'Dennis'" by Gordon Young. ©1980 Hope Publishing Company, OneLicense Song #147, OneLicense #A735776.

Doxology: #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken. Public domain.

Sending Hymn: #557 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" by John Fawcett. Public domain.

Postlude: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by John Innes. ©1999 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI Song #7064629, CCLI License #11231812.