



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

September 28, 2025 10 am

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost; New Members Welcoming Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Prélude" by César Franck / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #133** "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" by Elisha A. Hoffman and Anthony J. Showalter / **All** / Led by Jennifer Walker, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain:

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Verse 2

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 91) / Led by Tina Rajaratnam, Liturgist

(Liturgist) God is our refuge and our fortress.

(Congregation) In God, we place our trust.

(L) When we are weary,

(C) God lifts us up on wings like eagles.

(L) Come before the Lord with joy and longing.

(All) God is our hope and our salvation. Amen!

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

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Pastor) Having set our hearts on things that are above, let us share our joy with one another by exchanging signs of Christ's peace. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (1 Timothy 6)

Merciful God, in our quest for riches and success, we often wander away from your ways and pierce ourselves with many pains. We yearn to be content with what we have, for we brought nothing into this world and take nothing from it when we leave. We long to focus on things that endure: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and gentleness. Help us fight the good fight, that we might taste the sweetness of your salvation and touch the glory of eternal life in your name. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Amen" (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION

Reaffirmation of Faith:

-James Herron

-Brent Levine

-Frederica Turkson

-Stephen Turkson

Transfer:

-Jeff Benedict (From Pasadena FUMC)

-Doug Robinson (From Redlands FUMC)

-Marilyn Robinson (From Redlands FUMC)



Welcoming New Members: Reaffirmation of Faith & Transfer

INTRODUCTION

(Pastor) Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

(Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader) I present **James Herron**, **Brent Levine**, **Frederica Turkson**, and **Stephen Turkson** to reaffirm their faith.

I also present **Jeff Benedict**, who is transferring his membership from Pasadena First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, California;

Doug Robinson and **Marilyn Robinson**, who are transferring their memberships from Redlands First United Methodist Church, Redlands, California.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

(Pastor addresses all candidates) On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

(Candidates) I do.

(Lay Leader to all candidates) Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

(Candidates) I do.

(Pastor to all candidates) Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

(Candidates) I do.

(Pastor addresses all candidates) According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

(Candidates) I will.

(Lay Leader addresses the congregation) Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

(Congregation) We do.

(Pastor to the congregation) Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

(Congregation) With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Pastor) *(James/Brent/Frederica/Stephen)*, remember your baptism and be thankful.

Amen.

(Pastor) *(James/Brent/Frederica/Stephen)*, the Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Lay Leader addresses the Reaffirmation of Faith candidates) As members of Christ's universal Church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

(Candidates) I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST UMC OF RIVERSIDE

(Pastor addresses all candidates) As members of this congregation, First United Methodist Church of Riverside, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

(Candidates) I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

(Pastor addresses the congregation) Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

(Congregation) We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Riverside, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BLESSINGS FOR THOSE RECEIVED AND WELCOMED

(Pastor) The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

(All) Amen!

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Shema ("Hear")

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹ and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Fairest Lord Jesus" by Lloyd Larson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:31-40** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

You Did It To Me

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?

³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'"

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "CULTIVATING A STRONGER COMMUNITY" (Sermon Series, *"Life Is Better Together," 4 of 5*) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #545** "The Church's One Foundation" by Samuel J. Stone and Samuel Sebastian Wesley (Vss. 1, 3, & 5)

Verse 1

**The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

Verse 3

**Though with a scornful wonder
we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

Verse 5

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Luke 16) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us set our hearts on the riches of good works, rather than the allure of earthly treasures.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "How Can I Keep from Singing?" by Tom Birchwood

***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** (Psalm 91) / **All** / Led by Liturgist

Loving God, you protect us from harm and shelter us in your loving arms. Just as you deliver us from evil, may these offerings lead others to find the hope of your salvation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin

***SENDING HYMN: #467** "Trust and Obey" by John M. Sammis and Daniel B. Towner/ All

Verse 1

**When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

**Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

Verse 2

**Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. (Refrain)**

Verse 4

**Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. (Refrain)**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (1 Timothy 6)

(Pastor) Go with the promise of eternal life!

(Congregation) We will live by faith.

(P) Go with the promise of heavenly riches!

(C) We will hold onto God's promises.

(P) Go and be rich in good works!

(C) We will be generous friends and neighbors.

(P) Go with God's blessings!

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" by Jon Spong

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Derek and Robin Austin, Devyn Salmon, Marie Madden, Gitanjali Spencer, Liz Jennings,
Donna Woodard, Emilie Gorham, George Callow, Bill Ashworth, Norma Nelson,
Kalvin Narayan and Shail Singh, Ed Lamers, John and Susan Logger, Michael Thompson,
Mack Davis, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Pat Beals, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann,
Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Marge Wolter, Michelle Arguelles,
Robert and Benita Roberts, De'Ann McWilliams,
Jazz Roberts' family, Josephine Essien's family,
the family of Claudia Weber-Timmerman (Roy and Cheryl Riggs),
our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

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This Week

Sunday, September 28

-Worship - New Member Welcoming Sunday; Pastor Kim's sermon: **"Cultivating a Stronger Community"**

(Sermon series, **"Life Is Better Together,"** #4 of 5) (Sanctuary) - 10 am

-Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am

-Youth Worship (second and fourth 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. Flyers in the Narthex. Church will earn 20% of sales. 11 am - 9 pm

-U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) - 5 pm

Tuesday, September 30

- UWF Executive Board Meeting (off campus) – 1 pm
- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (MPR) – 7 pm

Wednesday, October 1

- Pastor Kim on Continuing Education (Leadership Institute) (10/1-10/3)
- UWF “Walk About” (off campus) – 7:30 am
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 pm

Thursday, October 2

- The Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) – 7 pm

Friday, October 3

- Men’s Prayer Breakfast (MPR) – 7 am

Sunday, October 5

- Chapel Prayer – 9:15 am
- Worship – “World Communion Sunday”; **Sermon: “Relationships That Reflect God’s Love”** (Sermon Series, **“Life Is Better Together,”** #5 of 5) (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am
- English Country Dance (Fellowship Hall) – 3 pm

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