



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

September 7, 2025 10 am

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost; "Back-To-Church" Month;
Holy Communion Sunday**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

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

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #89** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" by Henry Van Dyke
/ Led by Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader / **All**

Verse 1

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

Verse 2

**All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.**

Verse 3

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

Verse 4

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Jeremiah 18, Psalm 139, Luke 14) / Led by Daryl Salmon, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Did you hear the whisper of God calling us to worship?

(Congregation) God, help us listen as you call.

(L) Do you sense the beautiful people God is creating us to become?

(C) God, help us to see your image within.

(L) Are we ready to listen, learn, and grow?

**(All) God, open our hearts and minds to your loving and challenging guidance.
Amen!**

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Philemon 1)

(Pastor) Let's welcome one another, not as strangers or even friends, but as beloved sisters and brothers in Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

"BACK-TO-CHURCH" VIDEO (3 of 5) / Media Team

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (UM Hymn #881) / **All**

(Pastor) Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

(All) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

(Pastor) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(All) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

(Pastor) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(All) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

*universal

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lucinda Edmunds

SCRIPTURE READING: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Value of a Friend

⁹Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

(Liturgist) This is the word of God for the people of God!

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Let the Praise Go 'Round" by William Boyce / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:18-20** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

¹⁸"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "AN INTRODUCTION TO LIFE TOGETHER" (New sermon series, *"Life Is Better Together,"* #1 of 5) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #191** "Jesus Loves Me" by Anna B. Warner and David Rutherford McGuire

Verse 1

Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Verse 2

Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." (Refrain)

Verse 3

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Created by God to give and to share, let's give and share with love and generosity, not just in this time of offering, but in the days and weeks ahead.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Jesus Loves Me" by Albert L. Travis

***DOXOLOGY:** #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Psalm 139) / Liturgist

(All) Gracious God, you have blessed us beyond measure; you have entrusted us as partners to care for your world. Bless these gifts and our very lives. Transform everything we are in this life into offerings that bring your love to the world. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(People) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(People) We lift them up to God.

(Pastor) Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

(People) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(All singing)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(Pastor) On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All singing)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, showing forth the fruit of the Spirit until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

(All singing)

Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Pastor) And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

(All) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING & SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Pastor) For those who are here in person, you are invited to come forward to take communion elements with three options: (1) You can take the communion in a traditional way. Take a piece of Bread and dip it into the Cup, then eat it. (2) Or you can simply take a "Fellowship Cup," which includes both elements, from the basket and eat it in your seat. It's your choice. (3) If desired, you may take a "Gluten Free Fellowship Cup" from the small bowl.

For those who are at home, via online or telephone, please take your own Bread and Cup now.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "Partita on 'Hymn to Joy'" by Charles Callahan

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"** by Omer Westendorf

Verse 1

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.**

**The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.**

Verse 2

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

THE DEDICATION OF THE 150TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL STAINED-GLASS WINDOW

-Introduction by Kris Lovekin (with the 150th Church Anniversary Committee)

-Dedication Liturgy: (Loretta Cudney, the Donor)

We present this 150th Church Anniversary Memorial Stained-glass Window to be consecrated to the glory of almighty God and for service in this church in loving memory of my late husband David Cudney.

-(Lynn Wright, Church Council Chair) We accept this 150th Church Anniversary Memorial Stained-glass Window as a sacred trust and will guard and use it reverently in loving memory of David Cudney.

-(Pastor) In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we consecrate this 150th Church Anniversary Memorial Stained-glass window to the glory of God and in memory of God's servant David Cudney. The memory of the righteous is ever blessed!

(All) Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept the gifts of our hands as symbols of our devotion. Grant us your blessing, as we have consecrated this gift to your glory, that it may be an enduring witness before all your people, and that our lives may be consecrated in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "The Ash Grove" by Dale Wood

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Claudia Weber-Timmerman, 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, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

This Week

Sunday, September 7

- Chapel Prayer - 9:15 am
- Youth Bell Meeting (Fellowship Hall) - 9:30 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
- UWF Ice Cream Social (Patio) - 11 am
- Church and Society/Missions Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 11:15 am
- English Country Dance (1st and 3rd Sundays) (Fellowship Hall) - 3 pm
- Youngish Fellowship (off campus) - 6 pm

Monday, September 8

- Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm
- Trustees Meeting - (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, September 9

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (MPR) - 7 pm
- SPRC Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Wednesday, September 10

- UWF "Walk About" (Ryan Bonaminio Park) - 7:30 am
- Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 11

- UWF Lunch Bunch (Hangar 24, Canyon Crest Town Centre) - 11 am
- UWF Bible Study / "Signs and Secrets of the Messiah" via Zoom. Social time, 6:45. Bible Study starts at 7 pm. Contact: kkeagan@aol.com or Lyn Knowles at daselwonk@aol.com to get your Zoom invite.
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, September 12

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

Saturday, September 13

- Gaddiel Gwira's Memorial Services. Visitation (Sanctuary), 11 am; Homegoing Service (Sanctuary), 12 pm, with reception following (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, September 14

- Worship: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Pastor Kim's sermon, **"BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS TO CONNECTION"** (sermon series, **"Life Is Better Together"** (#2 of 5)) (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Luncheon with Program: A project out of Riverside's King High School that allows students to interview local veterans. The project is called "King High Remembers." Lunch prepared by David Fraser! (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) - 5 pm

Monday, September 15

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

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