



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

October 5, 2025 10 am

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost; World Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Te Ofrecemos (Let Us Offer to the Father)" by Jeffrey Honoré / Robert Phillips,
Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #64** "Holy, Holy, Holy!" by Reginald Heber and John B. Dykes /
Led by Phil Bremenstuh, Hymn Leader / **All**

Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Verse 2

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Verse 3

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Verse 4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (World Communion Sunday) / Led by Josephine Essien, Liturgist (Liturgist) Come, all who sit by rivers of sorrow, who have hung up their hope and wondered if God still sings.

(Congregation) We come carrying exile in our bones, dislocation in our hearts, and longing in our prayers.

(L) This is the table where memory is honored, where story is sacred, where strangers become siblings.

(C) We come to taste and see that the Lord is good, to feast on grace, to believe again in belonging.

(L) Around the world, across languages and landscapes, a holy table is set.

(C) We come not because we are worthy, but because Christ calls us in love.

(ALL) Come, let us worship the One who welcomes, the One who remembers, the One who feeds the whole world with hope. Amen!

(Adapted from the UMC resources on World Communion Sunday 2025)

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (2 Timothy 1)

(Pastor) Let's greet one another in Christian love: Grace, mercy, and peace from God, the Father, from Christ Jesus, the Son, and from the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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 / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NRSVue)

The Gift of Love (Read by **Richard Rajaratnam** in **Tamil**, one of the languages of Sri Lanka)

¹ If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love Endures All Things (Read by **Jaswant Roberts** in **Urdu**, one of the languages of India) ⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

The Greatest of These Is Love (Read by **L. J. Arguelles** in **Tagalog**, one of the languages of the Philippines) ⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

(LJ Arguelles, in English) This is the word of God for the people of God!

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Look at the World" by John Rutter / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: John 15:8-17** (NRSVue)

Abide in My Love (Read by **Josh Ponnuraju** in **Spanish**)

⁸ "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

¹⁰ "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Love One Another (Read by **Rev. Jaeman Lim** in **Korean**)

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer,

because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

*Go and Bear Fruit (Read by **David Fraser** in **Kiswahili** – the language spoken in East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda)*

¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

(David Fraser, Reader) (in English) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "RELATIONSHIPS THAT REFLECT GOD'S LOVE" (Sermon Series, "**Life Is Better Together,**" #5 of 5) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #620** "One Bread, One Body" by John B. Foley

Refrain

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

Verse 1

**Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. (Refrain)**

Verse 2

**Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all. (Refrain)**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us open our hearts with God's love for everyone! May we and our gifts bring unity to a world in strife!

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "A Va De (Come, Let Us Eat)" by Frank Ferko

***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** (World Communion Sunday) / Liturgist
Generous God, you have set a table that stretches from Charlotte to Kinshasa, from Bogotá to Seoul. You have fed us with grace and invited us into your holy community of justice and joy. So now, we offer back to you a portion of what we have received. May our gifts, of money, time, and lives, be used to extend your welcome, to build tables in places long denied a feast, and to nourish hope in hearts still waiting for home. Bless and multiply these gifts for your glory and your people. Amen.

(Adapted from the UMC resources on World Communion Sunday 2025)

HOLY COMMUNION (World Communion Sunday)

UNISON PRAYER (WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY) / All (Led by Rev. J. T. Kim)
As we gather at your table from all over the world, O God, we pray that all those who come to you in the name of Christ might be one in Spirit. Knead us together in one loaf. Free us from jealousy and selfish ambition; unite us in mission and service to those in need everywhere. May we sow righteousness and harvest peace, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Rev. J. T. Kim) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(Rev. Kim) Lift up your hearts.

(C) We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

(Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(All sing)

**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.**

(Rev. Bev Devine) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

(Rev. Kim) 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."

(Rev. Devine) 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."

(Kris Lovekin) 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 sing)

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

(Rev. Kim) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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.

(Kris Lovekin) Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

(Rev. Devine) Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

(All sing)

Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Rev. Devine) 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

(Kris Lovekin) 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: "Supplication from Japan and Meditation from China" by Roberta Bitgood

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION / All (Led by Rev. Kim)

(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: #431** "Let There Be Peace on Earth" by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

**Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God)" by John A. Behnke

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Patrick Russell, Jon Dugan, 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, Mack Davis, John and Susan Logger, Michael Thompson,
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, Claudia Weber-Timmerman's family,
our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

This Week

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

Monday, October 6

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

Tuesday, October 7

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (MPR) - 7 pm

Wednesday, October 8

- UWF "Walk About" (Ryan Bonaminio Park) - 7:30 am
- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 am
- Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm
- FUMPS Dining Fundraiser (Islands Restaurant, 3645 Central Ave. 20% returned to Preschool) - 4 pm - 9:30 pm
- Nominations Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Thursday, October 9

- UWF "Breaking the Code" Book Study (via Zoom, opens 6:45 pm Study at 7pm)
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, October 10

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

Sunday, October 12

- Worship: "Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Stewardship Sunday" Sermon: **"A JOURNEY OF HOPE"** (Stewardship Sermon #1 of 2) (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- United Methodist Men invite you to their Luncheon with Program: Allison George will speak about her mission experience in Ecuador. Lunch prepared by David Fraser! (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am
- Youth Sunday Evening (Youth Room) - 5 pm

Monday, October 13 - Pastor Kim on vacation (returning on October 20)

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

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