



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

Order of Worship

November 23, 2025 10 am

Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday / Thanksgiving Sunday

**Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE: "Meditation and Aria" by Herbert Howells / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #327** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" / **All** / Led by Leslie Tomlinson, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

Verse 2

**Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.**

Verse 3

**Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

Verse 4

**Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Luke 1, Colossians 1) / Led by Josephine Essien, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Blessed be the Holy One,
(Congregation) who looks upon us with love and mercy.
(L) Blessed be the Holy One,
(C) who sent us a Savior to rescue us from despair.
(L) Blessed be the Holy One and God's beloved Child,
(C) who rules in a realm of forgiveness and peace.
(L) Blessed be the Holy One,
(All) who is worthy of our worship. Amen!

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

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Colossians 1)

(Pastor) Each of us dwells in the realm of God. Let us greet one another as friends and family in the peace of Jesus Christ! Peace be with you!
(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (Colossians 1)

God of Creation, we cannot see you, but we see what you have created in all its beauty and bounty! Jesus, Child of God, the entire universe lives in you, and for you, and through you! Spirit of the Holy One, you sweep across creation, enlivening and sustaining. Everything on earth and in heaven has its being and its hope because of you, Triune God. Blessed is your holy, life-giving name! Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Amen" (Dresden) / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

INTERLUDE: "O Happy Day" by Friedemann Graef / Jeff Benedict, saxophone, and Robert Phillips, organ

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 4:4-9 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Do Not Be Anxious About Anything

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

(All) Thanks be to God. Amen!

ANTHEM: "Thank the Lord" by Rene Clausen / The Aldersgate Chorale

***GOSPEL READING: John 15:4-10** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Abide In Me

⁴"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My 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.”

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: “MEDITATE ON GOOD THINGS” (Sermon series, *“Pursuing CALM in These Anxious Times,”* 4 of 4) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #140** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” by Thomas O. Chisholm
/ All

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)**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Jeremiah 23) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) The God who shepherds us, comforts us, and provides for us is the one owed our thanks and gratitude. In deep humility, let us bring our offerings to God.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” by Edwin T. Childs

***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** (Colossians 1) / Led by Liturgist

Loving God, may our gifts bring your love to all. Jesus Christ, our Deliverer, may our gifts show the world that we belong to one another. For each of us is held in your embrace. In the name of the Holy Spirit, who gives the breath of life, we pray.
Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #715** "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" by Charles Wesley / **All**

Verse 1

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Verse 2

Jesus the Savior reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Verse 3

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of earth and hell
are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Verse 4

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Luke 1, Colossians 1) / Pastor Kim

(Pastor) May God guide our feet in the way of peace!

(Congregation) May we be strong in the strength of God's glorious power!

(P) May we be joyful in the gifts we share with all God's people!

(All) May we be at peace in Christ, who encompasses all that is and will be! Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" by Christopher Tambling

In Our Hearts and Prayers

James Herron, Doug Robinson, Devyn Salmon, Josh Salmon, Rizzy Manacop, Margie Baillod, Lucille Novak, Jun Valino, Patrick Russell, Jon Dugan, Gitanjali Spencer, Derek and Robin Austin, Liz Jennings, George Callow, Bill Ashworth, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, De'Ann McWilliams, Michael Thompson, Pat Beals, Melissa Williams, Calvin Narayan and Shail Singh, John and Susan Logger, Mary Herrmann, Mary Boon, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Jim Ashworth, Melva Cooke, Marge Wolter, Robert and Benita Roberts, Josephine Essien and family, Cheryl and Roy Riggs and family, family of Jim Conlin, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

This Week

Sunday, November 23

- Worship: Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday; Thanksgiving Sunday; Rev. J. T. Kim's sermon, **"MEDITATE ON GOOD THINGS"** (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - Meet in Narthex - 10:15 am
- "Hanging of the Greens"* to transform the Sanctuary for *next* Sunday, First Sunday of Advent! - 11 am
- See's Candy Sales/Fundraising (Patio) - 11 am
- The Habit Fundraiser, Riverside Plaza (show flyer in person or on phone) - 11 am to 9:30 pm

Monday, November 24

- Preschool closed for Thanksgiving 11/25 through 11/29

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) - 8 am

Thursday, November 27

- Thanksgiving Holiday - Church campus and office closed

Friday, November 28

- Thanksgiving Holiday - Church campus and office closed

Sunday, November 30

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15 am - 9:45 am
- Worship: First Sunday of Advent—HOPE (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- See's Candy Sales/Fundraising (Patio) - 11 am
- Christmas Brunch hosted by Faith and Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am

Monday, December 1

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

Blue Christmas Services

Led by Rev. Bev Devine

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 Noon and 7 pm

Our Blue Christmas Services are offered especially for those hurting during the holidays. The reasons for coming are many. Some come because they are mourning the death of a loved one. Some are far from home. Some suffer from illness, addiction, or estrangement. Some are lonely, struggling financially, or in conflict with another. Some hurt because of the great pain, need, and violence in our nation and world.

We gather, in the midst of suffering, to remember God is good. God is strong.
God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope.

Welcome to this sacred space and time where we seek peace, comfort, and hope.
We seek God's presence – and we seek Jesus...
the Light in the darkness.

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