



# Sunday Worship

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

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## Order of Worship

**December 7, 2025 10 am**  
**Second Sunday of Advent: "PEACE"**  
**Holy Communion Sunday**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE:** "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" by Johann Sebastian Bach / Robert Phillips, organist

### **\*TRINITY BELLS**

**\*INTROIT:** "The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed" by Hal H. Hopson / Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

**\*SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT READING** (Psalm 85) / Sarah Overton-Fraser, Liturgist (Liturgist) "I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for God is speaking peace to faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to God. Truly, salvation is very near to those who fear God."

**(All) Amen!**

**\*ADVENT CANDLE SONG VERSE:** "Christ Be Our Light" by Bernadette Farrell / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg, accompanied by handbell ringers and Robert Phillips

**\*LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE** / Turkson Family (Stephen, Frederica, Stephen Jr., and Evelyn)

As we light our second Advent Candle, we think of preparing our hearts so that we will be at peace, ready for the Christ child. We long for peace—in our hearts, our homes and our world. We will prepare by seeking peace with God first, then with all the people who make up our world. **(All) Amen!**

## \*ADVENT WREATH SONG



## \*ADVENT PRAYER / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us pray.

**(All) Thank you for your promise that you will come, Lord. Let the seeds of peace that you have planted blossom in our lives so that there is room for you in all our busy-ness. Amen.**

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

## \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Psalm 72)

(Pastor) Wherever you have been, you are welcome here! We are glad to be here, gathered in the glorious name of God! Peace be with you!

**(All) Peace be with you!**

## THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

– Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Isaiah 11, Romans 15, Matthew 3)

**God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day, may we catch a glimpse of your peace; may we open ourselves to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us; may we prepare our hearts and our lives, for Christ to be born in us once again. And when our worship is done, may we be renewed in body and spirit, prepared to bring your righteousness and justice to the world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** “Amen,” Dresden

## CHILDREN’S MOMENT / Lucinda Edmunds

**LAITY BLESSINGS** / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

**SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 5:1-5** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

*We Have Peace with God*

**<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.**

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

**(All) Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM:** "Christmas is Coming" by Joel Raney / The Aldersgate Chorale with handbell ringers: Carmen Lonsbery, Gayla Lonsbery, and Greg Laird

**\* GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:8-14** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

*Peace on Earth*

**<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**SERMON: "FINDING GRINCH-PROOF HOPE AND PEACE (II)"** / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\* HYMN OF DEDICATION: #238** "Angels We Have Heard on High"—traditional French carol / Led by Phil Bremenstuhl, hymn leader

**Verse 1**

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

## Verse 2

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

## Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

## Verse 4

See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING** (Psalm 72)

(Liturgist) We give thanks for the blessings God gives us—blessings that nourish us and help us do wondrous things for God and God's world. In a spirit of thanksgiving, let us now offer what we can to God as a way to show our thanks.

**(All) Amen!**

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

**OFFERTORY:** "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" by Johann Gottfried Walther

**\*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** (Isaiah 11, Psalm 72, and Matthew 3) / Led by Liturgist  
**Abundant God, your blessings and righteousness are bountiful in our lives. May  
these gifts bear good fruit as they go forth, that peace may come, that creation  
may be healed, and that those who cry for justice may be heard. Amen.**

## **ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

(Pastor) Come to the table of God's grace! You who have been fed with the bread of tears, find here the bread of life. You who have drunk the sorrows of life, find here the living water, springing forth with eternal grace. You who need to see God, find here the very presence of Christ, his life and love, ready to nourish us all.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**(All)** Ever-present God, remind us this day that you are always with us. Strengthen us as we worship together, that we may pay attention to the signs of your presence all around us. When our feet wander, guide us back to your path. When our attention drifts and we lose our way, teach us the way we should go. If we squander the time you have given us, help us prioritize you and your teachings. Remember us according to your faithful love. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

## **SILENT PRAYER**

### **PARDON**

**(Pastor)** Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**(People)** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**(All)** Glory to God! Amen.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**(Pastor)** Christ be with you.

**(People)** And also with you.

**(Pastor)** Lift up your hearts.

**(People)** We lift them up to God.

**(Pastor)** Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

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

**(Pastor)** It is a right, good, and joyful thing always and everywhere to give our thanks to you, who sent the prophet Malachi to announce your coming reign, the priest Zechariah to remind us of your tender mercy, and John the Baptist to proclaim your coming among us in Jesus. You promise to give light to all who are in despair, and to guide our feet on the way of peace.

And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

(Pastor) Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, whose birth in our hearts we prepare with hope and anticipation, and for whose life, passion, death, and resurrection we give thanks beyond measure.

On the night in which he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, broke it, saying: "Take, eat, all of you. This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat it, do so in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, saying: "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the healing of the world. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**(All sing) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ to a world that sits too often in gloom and fear. Creator of all, Light of the world, Spirit of truth, you are the one God to whom we offer our praise and our thanks.

**(All sing) 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, for ever. Amen.**

### **GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

(Pastor) The loving presence of Christ, shining in your life.

**(All) Amen!**

(Pastor) Please take your Bread and Cup now here in the sanctuary and at your home if you are partaking in this communion via online or telephone!

### **UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**(All) Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants and witnesses to the world. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: #240** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" by Charles Wesley

**Verse 1**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**Verse 2**

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**Verse 3**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** "Two Chorale Preludes for Advent" by Johann Sebastian Bach

## **In Our Hearts and Prayers**

Bob Nelson, Loretta Cudney, Rizzy Manacop, Margie Baillod, Jun Valino, 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, Ed Lamers, Calvin Narayan and Shail Singh, Mack Davis, Pat Beals, John and Susan Logger, Michael Thompson, Melissa Williams, Kennedy Williams, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Marge Wolter, Michelle Arguelles, Robert and Benita Roberts, Scott and De'Ann McWilliams

## ***This Week***

### **Sunday, December 7**

- Chapel Prayer - 9:15 am - 9:45 am
- Worship - Second Sunday of Advent / Communion — **SERMON: "FINDING GRINCH-PROOF HOPE AND PEACE (II)"** / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Wesley Donations are due today! (See Lee Ann Salmon)
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- See's Candy Sales/Fundraising (Patio) - 11 am
- Alternative Gift Fair (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am - 3 pm

### **Monday, December 8**

- **Pastor Kim will be on vacation from 12/8-12/14 and Study Leave (12/15-12/21)**

### **Tuesday, December 9**

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

### **Wednesday, December 10**

- UWF Walk About (Off Campus) - 8:30 am

### **Thursday, December 11**

- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

### **Friday, December 12**

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 am
- Parents Night Out (Nursery) - 5 pm to 7:30 pm

### **Saturday, December 13**

- Santa's Workshop (Fellowship Hall) - 10 am to 12 pm

### **Sunday, December 14**

- Worship: "Third Sunday of Advent (JOY) - Worship Through Music - Aldersgate Chorale Cantata: "God Came Near" (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- See's Candy Sales Fundraiser (Patio) - 11 am
- UMM Luncheon with Sing-along! (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Christmas Party (Youth Room) - 5 pm



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Prayer Response: "Amen" (Danish). Public domain.

Anthem: "Christmas is Coming" by Joel Raney. ©2007 Hope Publishing Company, OneLicense Song #54447, OneLicense #A735776.

Hymn of Dedication: #238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"—traditional French carol, arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes, harmonized by Austin C. Lovelace. ©1964 Abingdon Press, OneLicense Song #81076, OneLicense #A735776.

Offertory: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" by Johann Gottfried Walther. Public domain.

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

Communion: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Philip Moore. ©2014 Oxford University Press, OneLicense #A735776.

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