



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

December 28, 2025 10 am

First Sunday after Christmas

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" by A. D. Miller / Robert Phillips, organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***OPENING HYMN: #251** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"—Afro-American spiritual / Sean Lomax,
Hymn Leader

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

Verse 1

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.**

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

Verse 2

**The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 148) / Greg Laird, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Praise the God of mercy and love.

(People) Praise God with angels in the highest heavens.

(L) Praise Christ, who came as a child.

(P) Praise Christ with all God's children, young and old alike.

(L) Praise the Holy Spirit, who calls us here.

(All) Praise the Spirit from the depths of our souls. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Colossians 3:13)

(Pastor) Called to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, let us greet one another with words of mercy, love, and peace. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER – Sharing of Joys and Concerns

THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

(Pastor) "I am no longer my own, but thine.

(Congregation) Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

(P) Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

(C) Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

(P) exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

(C) Let me be full, let me be empty.

(P) Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

(C) I freely and heartily yield all things

(P) to thy pleasure and disposal.

(C) And now, O glorious and blessed God,

(P) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

(C) thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

(P) And the covenant which I have made on earth,

(All) let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

(Adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, p. 291)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:18–25 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

(All) Thanks be to God!

INTERLUDE: "O Holy Night" by Adolphe Adam / Sean Lomax, soloist

***GOSPEL READING:** Luke 2:21–35 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Jesus Is Named

²¹ When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

PHOTO PRESENTATION: "GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR 2025" (Created by Kris Lovekin) / Media Team

SERMON: "A POST-CHRISTMAS STORY" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #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!"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Matthew 2) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Just as visitors from the East brought gifts to the Christ child, we too are invited to bring gifts to Christ's church in service of God's work in the world. Any gift of love is a gift of gold.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "O Hail This Brightest Day of Days" by Johann Sebastian Bach

***DOXOLOGY: #95** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" / **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** / Led by Liturgist
Generous God, thank you for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives and in our world.
Thank you for the gifts we return to you now. Bless these gifts, that they may
support Christ's loving presence in our ministry, in our community, and in our world.
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: "Fanfare on 'Hark! the Herald Angels Sing'" by Alec Wyton

We are called to pray for:

Timothy Speck, Dewey Edmunds, Rizzy Manacop, Margie Baillod, Jun Valino,
Patrick Russell, Jon Dugan, Marie Madden, Gitanjali Spencer, Liz Jennings,
George Callow, Bill Ashworth, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, Pat Beals,
John and Susan Logger, Michael Thompson, Melissa 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, the family of Connie Taylor

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Please contact the church office for more details.

Sunday, December 28

- Sunday Worship – Sermon: “A POST-CHRISTMAS STORY” by The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor – 10 am
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am – 11 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) – 10:15 – 11 am
- The Habit Fundraiser, Riverside Plaza (show flyer in person or on phone) – 11 am to 9:30 pm

Monday, December 29

- Preschool closed (Preschool resumes January 7)

Wednesday, December 31

- Church office closes at noon

Thursday, January 1, 2026 New Years Day

- Campus and church office closed for the holiday

Sunday, January 4

- Chapel Prayer Circle (Chapel) – 9:15 am – 9:45 pm
- Epiphany Sunday/New Year’s Sunday/Holy Communion – 10 am
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am – 11 am
- Church and Society/Missions meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am
- English Country Dance (1st and 3rd) Sundays (Fellowship Hall) – 3 pm
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Dinner (Youth Room) – 5 pm

Monday, January 5

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

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