



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

February 1, 2026 10 am

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Black History Month - National Freedom Day
Holy Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" by Wilbur Held and Van Denman Thompson /
Robert Phillips, Organist

*TRINITY BELLS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #133** "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" / Led by Jennifer
Walker, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 2

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 3

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Micah 6, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 5) / Led by Steve Kerrick,
Liturgist

(Liturgist) What does the Lord require of us?

(People) To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

(L) With what shall we come before the Lord?

(P) With speech that is gentle, and words that build up.

(L) How shall we live in our faith?

(P) With actions that bring peace, and works that lift up the lowly.

(L) Come and worship God in spirit and truth.

(All) Amen!

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

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Matthew 5)

(Pastor) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. As God's beloved children, let us share the peace that Christ brings with those around us.

Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Micah 6, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1) / All / Led by Pastor Kim
The hills hear your voice, O Lord. The mountains quake before you. As we call on your name, help us walk in the ways of righteousness and speak in tones of peace. As we seek to be blameless and do what is right, may our hearts be free from guile and deceit, that we be known as peacemakers, the blessed children of God. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "This Is Our Prayer" by Sally Ahner

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NRSV, Anglicized) / Liturgist

God Is the Source of Your Life in Christ Jesus

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ **in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."**

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Be Thou My Vision," by Alice Parker / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Beatitudes

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up to the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ **"Blessed are the poor in spirit,** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ **"Blessed are** those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ **"Blessed are the meek,** for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ **"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,** for they will be filled.

⁷ **"Blessed are the merciful,** for they will receive mercy.

⁸ **"Blessed are the pure in heart,** for they will see God.

⁹ **"Blessed are the peacemakers,** for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ **"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ **"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

¹² **"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."**

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "O FREEDOM!" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #2194 "O Freedom" —African-American spiritual

Verse 1

O freedom! O freedom!

O freedom over me.

Refrain:

And before I'll be a slave,

I'd be buried in my grave,

and go home to my Lord and be free.

Verse 2

No more moaning, no more moaning,

no more moaning over me. [Refrain]

Verse 3

No more weeping, no more weeping,

no more weeping over me. [Refrain]

Verse 4

There'll be singing, there'll be singing,

there'll be singing over me. [Refrain]

Verse 5

There'll be shouting, there'll be shouting,

there'll be shouting over me. [Refrain]

Verse 6

There'll be praying, there'll be praying,

there'll be praying over me. [Refrain]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Micah 6:6-8) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? In this spirit, let us bring our offerings before the Lord.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "May Be the Last Time, I Don't Know!"—African-American spiritual arranged by William Farley Smith

*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 (Micah 6, Matthew 5) / Led by Liturgist
Source of justice and mercy, work through this offering to bring your gifts to the world: righteousness and peace, love and kindness, hope and joy. May our gifts truly express our gratitude for your many blessings for our church and for your children everywhere. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Adapted from Psalm 30, Revelation 5, John 21)

(Pastor) God be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(Pastor) Rejoice and be glad.

(C) We praise God with joy.

(Pastor) Thanks be to God!

(All) We thank God with our whole hearts!

(Pastor) We join with every creature in heaven and on earth, every creature under the earth and in the sea, to sing your praises. You created all that is, bringing forth goodness and new life. You are at work in our world still, transforming lives, healing brokenness, comforting those who mourn.

Your people were not always faithful. They followed their own desires, lashing out in anger, forgetting those in need. You sent prophets to call them back to your paths, reminding them of your love, and telling them to care for one another. You were always faithful, for you loved your people.

And so, we join all creation as we sing praise to you:

(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) You gave us Jesus to walk with us and to show us your love. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and taught us your ways. He showed us the abundance of your love and reminded us to share it with others.

On the night before his death, Jesus gathered with his followers, telling them to love one another. He shared a meal with them, taking bread, blessing it, breaking it, and giving it to them, saying, "This is my very being. When you eat this, remember that I am with you." He took the cup, blessed it, and gave it, saying, "This is the cup of forgiveness, poured out in abundance for you and for all people. As you drink this, remember that I am with you."

And so, we offer our very selves, with glad and grateful hearts, as we proclaim this mystery:

(All singing)

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

(Pastor) Send your spirit of abundant love upon these gifts of the earth, bread and wine. Transform them, by the power of your grace, into food for our bodies and nourishment for our souls. Send your Spirit upon us, and transform us by the power of your Wisdom, that we may become the body of Christ, feeding his lambs, and tending to his sheep. All praise is yours, God of power and might, wisdom and honor, glory and blessing. All praise is yours, 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 special basket.

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

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY "Let Us Break Bread Together" 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: #618 "Let Us Break Bread Together"—African-American spiritual (Vss. 1-3)

Verse 1

Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Verse 2

Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Verse 3

Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "O Freedom"—African-American spiritual arranged by Adolphus Hailstork

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Lyle Adams, Ronnie Tovar, Rev. Bev Devine, Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop,
Grace Reyes, Sharon Henry, Carolyn and Don Greywood, Timothy Speck,
Wayne Speir and Rebecca Konegen, Dewey Edmunds, Jun Valino, Jon Dugan,
Marie Madden, Gitanjali Spencer, Liz Jennings, George Callow, Bill Ashworth,
Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, Pat Beals, Michael Thompson, Marge Wolter,
John and Susan Logger, Melissa Williams, Bill and Helen Nuchols,
Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Michelle Arguelles,
Robert and Benita Roberts, Scott and De'Ann McWilliams,
the family of Connie Taylor, the family of Mary Bidwell

This Week

Sunday, February 1

-Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15-9:45 am
-Worship - **"O FREEDOM!"** / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Holy Communion Sunday (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

-U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) -5 pm

Monday, February 2

- Small Group Bible Study Leaders' Development Session (Conf. Room) - 8 am
- Trustees Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm
- Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, February 3

- Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Wednesday, February 4

- UWF Walk About (off campus) - 8:30 am
- The Response Band rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 5

- UWF Bible Study, "Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools" (Zoom) - 6:45 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, February 6

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

Sunday, February 8

- Worship - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, Sermon: "Three Simple Questions: #3, Who Are We Together?" (Sermon series 3 of 3) (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am
- UWIF Bake Sale and Jewelry (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am

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Hymn of Dedication: #2194 "O Freedom"—African-American spiritual arranged by Jon Bell.

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