



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

January 25, 2026 10 am

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE: "Children of the Heavenly Father" by Dale Wood / Robert Phillips, organist

*TRINITY BELLS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #298 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Isaac Watts
/ Led by Steve Kerrick, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Verse 2

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

Verse 3

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 4) / Led by Greg Laird, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Friends of God, today Jesus calls to each of us: "Come! Follow me!"
(People) The kingdom of heaven has come near.

(L) Some say, "But we are walking in darkness."

(P) In Christ, we have seen God's light.

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

(L) Some say, "But divisions tear us apart."

(P) In Christ we are united in mind and purpose.

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

(L) Friends of God, today we gather to worship God and to follow Jesus.

(All) The kingdom of heaven has come near. Amen!

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

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Matthew 4)

(Pastor) Jesus calls us to follow him, sharing with one another the good news that God has drawn near to us. Let us begin by greeting one another with the peace of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

MISSION RECOGNITION MOMENT / United Women in Faith (Lyn Knowles, President)

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(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.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Amen" (Danish)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 3:1-3 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

We Are Children of God

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²**Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been** revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "The Gift to Be Simple" by Dale Wood / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:3-16 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Beatitudes

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.

You Are the Salt and the Light

¹³ **"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be** restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ **"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.** ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your **Father in heaven.**"

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: **"THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS: #2, WHO AM I?"** (Sermon series, **"Three Simple Questions,"** 2 of 3) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

*HYMN OF DEDICATION: "I Am the Light of the World" by Jim Strathdee
Chorus

"I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

Verse 1

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

Chorus

Verse 2

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below the sky above! (Chorus)

Verse 3

To free the pris'ner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children ev'rywhere! (Chorus)

Verse 4

To bring hope to ev'ry task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colors of the earth! (Chorus)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Isaiah 9, Psalm 27, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 4) / Liturgist
(Liturgist) God has come to us as light, shelter, and unity, reminding us that the kingdom of heaven is very near to us. Let us respond immediately, offering ourselves and our gifts as signs of our joy.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by John A. Behnke

*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 9, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 4) / Led by Liturgist
Generous God, you have blessed us with your call to follow Jesus. In return, we
rejoice as we give our offerings and gifts. May they be used for the work of
proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of heaven has come near. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

*SENDING HYMN: #206 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Thomerson
Verse 1

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Verse 2

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

Verse 3

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (Isaiah 9, Psalm 27, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 4)

(Pastor) May we leave worship today eager to follow Jesus.

To those in darkness, let us proclaim:

(Congregation) God is our light and our salvation.

(P) To those in danger, let us proclaim:

(C) God is our protection and shelter.

(P) To those caught in conflicts and divisions, let us proclaim:

(C) Jesus Christ draws us together in mind and purpose.

(P) Following Jesus, may we know and share the message:

(All) The kingdom of heaven has come near. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "To God Be the Glory" by Don Hustad

We are called to pray for:

Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes, Sharon Henry, Carolyn and Don Greywood, Wayne Speir and Rebecca Konegen, Timothy Speck, Dewey Edmunds, Jun Valino, 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 family of Mary Bidwell

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Please contact the church office for more details.

Sunday, January 25

- American Red Cross Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall) - 8 am - 2 pm
- “THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS: #2, WHO AM I?”** (Sermon series, “*Three Simple Questions*,” 2 of 3) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15
- The Habit Fundraiser, 3555 Riverside Plaza Dr. (show flyer or cell phone to server) - 11 am - 9:30 pm
- Music Committee meeting (Mary’s Kitchen) - 11:15 am

Monday, January 26

- Small Group Bible Leaders Development Session (Conference Room) -8 am
- Church Council (Zoom) -7 pm

Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

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

Thursday, January 29

- UWF Bible Study: “Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools” (Zoom) - 6:45 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Choir Room) - 7 pm

Friday, January 30

- UMM Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Mary’s Kitchen) - 7 am

Sunday, February 1

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15 am
- Sunday Worship with Holy Communion/ The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Church and Society/Missions 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

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