



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

February 8, 2026 10 am

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Black History Month; UMC Scouting Sunday

PRELUDE: "There Is a Balm in Gilead," African-American spiritual arranged by Adolphus Hailstork / Robert Phillips, organist

*TRINITY BELLS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #448 "Go Down, Moses," African-American spiritual adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith (Verses 1 through 5) / Sean Lomax, Hymn Leader
Verse 1

When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go.

Refrain:

Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh
to let my people go!

Verse 2

"Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said,
let my people go;
"if not, I'll smite your firstborn dead,"
let my people go. (Refrain)

Verse 3

No more shall they in bondage toil,
let my people go;
let them come out with Egypt's spoil,
let my people go.

Refrain:

Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh
to let my people go!

Verse 4

We need not always weep and mourn,
let my people go;
and wear those slavery chains forlorn,
let my people go. (Refrain)

Verse 5

Come, Moses, you will not get lost,
let my people go;
stretch out your rod and come across,
let my people go. (Refrain)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 112) / Led by Loretta Cudney, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Praise the Lord! Happy are those who delight in the Lord!
(People) We come to this place, where generations before us have gathered.
(L) Here we remember the light of God that shines in our lives.

(P) Here we allow God's light to shine through us.

(L) Let us worship our radiant God.
(All) Praise the Lord! Happy are we who delight in the Lord! Amen!

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

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (1 Corinthians 2)

(Pastor) Generations before us have shared the peace of Christ with the faithful. Today we are here to continue the tradition as we share the peace of Christ with one another. **Together, with God's Spirit, let us share the peace of Christ: Peace be with you!**
(All) Peace be with you!

“UMC Scouting Ministry Sunday Moment” / Brian Tomlinson, Scouting Liaison

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Isaiah 58, 1 Corinthians 2) / All / Led by Pastor Kim
Amazing God, you have gathered us from many places to come together and
praise you this day. For this we are grateful! As we worship today, may our minds
be opened to learn your wisdom. May our eyes be opened to places that need
healing. May our hands be opened to do your good work. May our hearts be
opened to your Holy Spirit, who gifts us and guides us. In the name of Christ, we
pray. Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

INTERLUDE: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," African-American spiritual arranged by
Friedemann Graaf / Jeff Benedict, saxophone

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 4:1-6 (NRSVue) / Liturgist
Unity in the Body of Christ

¹I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the
calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with
patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the
unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴there is one body and one Spirit, just as
you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one
baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
(Liturgist) This is the Word of God for the people of God.

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "This Little Light of Mine," African-American spiritual arranged by Mark
Patterson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

*GOSPEL READING: John 17:17-23 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Jesus Prays for the Community's Oneness and Witness

¹⁷ **"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."** ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the
world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so
that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ **"I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me**
through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in
you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent
me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one,
as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so
that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you
have loved me."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS: #3, WHO ARE WE TOGETHER? PART I OF II)"
(Sermon series, "***Three Simple Questions***," 3 of 3) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #2223 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" by Peter Scholtes / All

Verse 1

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

**Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Verse 2

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)**

Verse 4

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 112) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) We are told that giving freely to help others glorifies God. Let us bring our gifts to God, so that God's love may be made known.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Lord, I Don't Feel Noways Tired," African-American spiritual arranged by Adolphus Hailstork

*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 58) / Liturgist**

Abundant God, we are grateful for the ways you bless our lives and for the gifts you give us. May these gifts help heal and restore our community, so that all will flourish like a well-watered garden. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

*SENDING HYMN: #519 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson

Verse 1

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Verse 2

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Verse 3

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

*BENEDICTION / Pastor Kim

POSTLUDE: "Postlude on Two Spirituals ("Go Down, Moses" and "I Want to Be Ready")" by Charles Callahan

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela, Lyle Adams, Ronnie Tovar, Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes,
Sharon Henry, Carolyn and Don Greywood, Timothy Speck, Wayne Speir, 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

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, February 8

- Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Black History Month; **"THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS: #3, WHO ARE WE TOGETHER? (PART I OF II)"** (Sermon series, **"Three Simple Questions,"** 3 of 3) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor
- UMC Scout Sunday (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays) (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Lunch Program/Carolyn Greywood, Speaker (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- UWF Valentine's Day Bake Sale (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am

Monday, February 9

- Small Group Bible Study Leaders' Development (Training) (Conference Room) - 8 am

Tuesday, February 10

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

Wednesday, February 11

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

Thursday, February 12

- UWF Lunch Bunch (Flo's Farmhouse, 5620 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside) - 11 am
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Choir Room) - 7 pm

Friday, February 13

- Preschool closed (Presidents' Day Holiday)
- Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 14 - 16, WINTER CAMP! (First - Twelfth Grades) Register:

www.campwrightwood.org

Sunday, February 15

- Family Sunday Worship with the Response Band. **SERMON: "THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS: #3 WHO ARE WE TOGETHER? (PART II OF II)"** (Sermon Series, **"Three Simple Questions,"** 3 of 3) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- "Hearts and Hotcakes Brunch" - Church/Society/Missions ministries (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- English Country Dance (Fellowship Hall) - 3 pm
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) - 5 pm

Monday, February 16

- Presidents' Day Holiday - Campus closed (including Preschool)

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