



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

March 1, 2026 10 am

Second Sunday in Lent; Women's History Month; Holy Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Pavane" by Gabriel Fauré, arranged by Pierre Gouin / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #298** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Isaac Watts / Led by Yvonne Flagg, 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** (Genesis 12, Psalm 121) / Jennifer Mahl, Liturgist
(Liturgist) God calls us to set out in faith.

(People) The love of God leads us home.

(L) Christ blesses us that we might bless others.

(P) The blessings of Christ heal our world.

(L) The Holy Spirit strengthens us for the journey.

(All) The power of the Spirit sustains and supports us. The One who made heaven and earth meets us here. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (John 3)

(Pastor) As disciples of Christ, we are born of the Spirit and offered a heritage that no one can take away. Share the joy and peace of life in Christ by greeting those around you in the name of the one who came to save us in holy love. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (John 3) / Led by Pastor Kim

Lord of light and love, your Spirit enlivens our spirits, even as your kingdom draws us to you. May we be born from above, that our souls might ascend to your realm and taste the joy of eternal life in your name. For you sent your Son into our world, not to condemn the world, but that all who enter into his light might have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 2:3-11 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Imitating Christ's Humility

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

**⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.**

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love," based on "Pavane" by Gabriel Fauré,
arranged by Allan Robert Petker / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-16,** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Beatitudes

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his
disciples came to him. ²And 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. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is
great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were
before you.

Salt and 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. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be
hid. ¹⁵People 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. ¹⁶In 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: "THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT SERMON (Part I of II)" (Sermon series, "The Message of Jesus," 3 of 9) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #356** "When We Are Living," anonymous lyric with additional stanzas by Roberto Escamilla

Verse 1

**When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Verse 2

**Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Verse 3

**'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Verse 4

**Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Isaiah 58, Psalm 112) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God has given us. We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in this congregation and the world.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "When We Are Living" by Emma Lou Diemer

***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** (Genesis 12, John 3) / Led by Liturgist

**Gracious God, just as you blessed the saints of old when they ventured forth in
faith, so now bless us in our living and in our giving. Transform our gifts and
offerings into blessings for a weak and weary world, that all may touch your great
love. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(Congregation) We lift them up to God.

(Pastor) Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, your love remained steadfast.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast, that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy, we may come to the fullness of grace that you have prepared for those who love you.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(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) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in our likeness. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

He took upon himself our sin and death and offered himself, a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All singing)

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of Bread and Cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, 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) Please be assured that, as United Methodists, our congregation uses 100% grape juice for our communion element. Moreover, our church has Open Table tradition, meaning that, regardless of your faith background, everyone is invited to come forward and take communion elements. Everyone is invited and everyone is welcome!

Now, for those who are here in person, you have 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: "Variations on 'All Depends on Our Possessing'" by Emily Maxson Porter.

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: #430** "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" by Washington Gladden

Verse 1

**O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

Verse 2

**Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**

Verse 3

**Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong;**

Verse 4

**In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Trumpet Tune" by Brenda Portman

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Samuel Sawlikar and family, Rollin Edmunds, Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela, Lyle Adams,
Ronnie Tovar, Roger Murray, Carolyn Greywood, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes,
Sharon Henry, Wayne Speir, Rebecca Konegen, 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,
the family of Connie Taylor, the family of Mary Bidwell, the family of Dewey Edmunds

This Week

Sunday, March 1

- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) - 9:15-9:45 am
- Worship - **"THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT SERMON (Part I of II)" (Sermon series, "The Message of Jesus," 3 of 9)** / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor - Second Sunday of Lent, Holy Communion Sunday (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School - "Learn Your Bible" class (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 11:15 am
- English Country Dance (Fellowship Hall) - 1-3 pm **(New time!)**
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) -5 pm

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

- UWF Exec. Board Meeting (Zoom) - 1 pm
- The Response Band rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm
- Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Wednesday, March 4

- UWF Walk About (off campus) - 8:30 am
- Lenten Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall) - 6 pm

Thursday, March 5

- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, March 6

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

Sunday, March 8

- Worship - Third Sunday of Lent; **"THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT SERMON (Part II of II)" (Sermon series, "The Message of Jesus," 4 of 9)** (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School - "Learn Your Bible" class (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am

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