



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

**Fourth Sunday in Lent; UMCOR Sunday;
Family Sunday with The Response Praise Band
March 15, 2026 10 am**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Song of St. Patrick" by Janet Linker / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***INTROIT:** "Seek the Lord" by Hal H. Hopson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Ephesians 5, John 9, 1 Samuel 16, Psalm 23) / Led by Steve Kerrick,
Liturgist

(Liturgist) Come into the light of God.

(People) Christ's brightness will guide our way.

(L) Come into the wisdom of God.

(P) The Spirit's insight will reveal new truths.

(L) Come into the praise of God.

(All) Worship opens new doors in our hearts. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN:** "My Lighthouse" by Chris Llewellyn and Gareth Gilkeson / Led by The Response / **All**

Verse 1

In my wrestling and in my doubts,

in my failures, you won't walk out.

Your great love will lead me through.

You are the peace in my troubled sea, (whoa-oh)

you are the peace in my troubled sea.

Verse 2

In the silence, you won't let go.
In the questions, your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea, (whoa-oh)
you are the peace in my troubled sea.

Refrain

My lighthouse, my lighthouse,
shining in the darkness, I will follow you. (whoa-oh)
My lighthouse, my lighthouse,
I will trust the promise,
you will carry me
safe to shore, (oh) safe to shore (oh),
safe to shore, (oh) safe to shore.

Verse 3

I won't fear what tomorrow brings.
With each morning I'll rise and sing.
My God's love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea, (whoa-oh)
you are the peace in my troubled sea.

Refrain

My lighthouse, my lighthouse,
shining in the darkness, I will follow you.
My lighthouse, my lighthouse,
I will trust the promise,
you will carry me
safe to shore, safe to shore,
safe to shore, safe to shore.

Bridge

Fire before us, you're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.
Fire before us, you're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.
Fire before us, you're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.
Fire before us, you're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.

(Refrain)

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Ephesians 5)

(Pastor) As Christ's light has guided us here, may Christ's light shine in and through us that we may love and guide one another. Let's share signs of light with one another as we pass the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of joys and concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (1 Samuel 16, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5, John 9)

Shepherd of love, guide our steps, open the eyes of our hearts, and fling wide the doors of our minds to perceive as you perceive. Open our lives to love as you love. Open our world to become the world you envision for your creation. In the light of your love, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lucinda Edmunds

INTERLUDE: "Lead On, Good Shepherd" by Frankie Orella, Patrick Mayberry, Paul Duncan / The Response

***GOSPEL READINGS: Matthew 25:34-40; Luke 10:36-37, 15:31-32** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Matthew 25:34-40: The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

³⁴ "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'"

Luke 10:36-37: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

³⁶ "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 15:31-32: The Parable of the Prodigal Son

³¹ "Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

ANTHEM: "O Saviour of the World" by John Goss / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

SERMON: "JESUS SPOKE TO THEM IN PARABLES" (Sermon series, "The Message of Jesus," 5 of 9) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** "Bread of Life" by John Watilo and Ron Wallace / **All** / Led by The Response

Chorus

**I am the Bread of Life. I am the Bread of Life,
and you, my child, will never go hungry again.
I am the Bread of Life. I am the Bread of Life,
and you, my child, will never go hungry again.**

Verse 1

**Lift your eyes to me and do not be afraid.
If you'll come to me, I will not turn you away.
Put your trust in me, and you won't be ashamed,
for I've called you to bring glory to my name. (Chorus)**

Verse 2

**I have known you since before the earth was formed.
I have called you since the day that you were born.
I have destined you to be counted as my own
and inherit all the riches of my throne. (Chorus)**

Instrumental

Bridge:

**Trust in me, and you won't be ashamed,
for I've called you to bring glory to my name. (Chorus)**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 23) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Our Loving Shepherd, Gentle Savior, deserves our thanks and praises for always providing us rest in green pastures, refreshment beside still waters, and health and wholeness for our souls.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Meditation on 'Song to Jesus Christ'" by Mary Beth Bennett

***OFFERING SONG:** "As We Seek Your Face"/"Jesus, Draw Me Close" by Dave Bilbraugh and Rick Founds / **All** / Led by Rev. Bev Devine

**As we seek your face, may we know your heart;
feel your presence, acceptance, as we seek your face.
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
For I desire to worship and obey.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Ephesians 5, John 9, 1 Samuel 16) / **ALL** / Led by Liturgist

All-seeing God, you see the gifts we have given and the offering we are giving: our treasure and our time, our service and our lives. Help us perceive the value of our gifts to you, and the ways our generous sharing brings your realm more closely to this earth. Bless our lives and our gifts, that they might become points of light to bring all of creation closer to you and to your love. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #2173 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"** by Graham Kendrick / The Response
Verse 1

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

Verse 2

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (A Prayer of St. Patrick)

(Pastor) Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ behind us,

(Congregation) Christ in us, Christ beneath us, Christ above us,

(P) Christ on our right, Christ on our left,

(C) Christ where we lie, Christ where we sit, Christ where we arise,

(P) Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of us,

(C) Christ in every eye that sees us,

(P) Christ in every ear that hears us.

(C) Salvation is of the Lord,

(P) Salvation is of the Christ,

(All) May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us. Amen!

(Adapted from The United Methodist Book of Worship, #529)

POSTLUDE: "Nearer, My God, to Thee" by Diane Bish

We pray for these loved ones:

Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela, Lyle Adams, Ronnie Tovar, Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes, Sharon Henry, Don Greywood, Timothy Speck, 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, Scott and De'Ann McWilliams, the family of Connie Taylor, the family of Mary Bidwell,

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, March 15

- Family Worship with The Response Band - Fourth Sunday of Lent; **"JESUS SPOKE TO THEM IN PARABLES" (Sermon series, "The Message of Jesus," 5 of 9)** - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Faith and Fellowship "Potato Bar" (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am
- English Country Dance (Fellowship Hall) - 1 pm to 3 pm
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Dinner (Youth Room) - 5 pm

Monday, March 16

- Small Group Bible Study Leaders' Development (Conference Room) - 8 am
- Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) - 8:30 am
- Lenten Soup/Speaker (Fellowship Hall) - 6 pm
- The Response Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 19

- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

- Connie Taylor's Celebration of Life Service (Sanctuary) and Reception (FH) - 11 am

Sunday, March 22

- Fifth Sunday in Lent; **"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" (Part I of II) (Sermon series, "The Message of Jesus," 6 of 9)** (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- Hosting 2026 Crop Hunger Walk (Patio) - 1:30 pm

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