



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

April 12, 2026 10 am

**Second Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion Sunday
"Small Group Bible Study Leaders Dedication Sunday"**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Variations: O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!" by Naji Hakim / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #304** "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" by William James / Led by Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.**

Verse 2

**Fear of death can no more stop us
from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to
triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.**

Verse 3

**Every day to us is Easter,
with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster
to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (1 Peter 1, John 20) / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

(People) Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice.

(L) Do not worry or fear, for Christ is alive!

(P) In this place, we find hope and joy.

(L) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

(All) Let us worship the one who brings new life. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (John 20)

(Pastor) Long ago, Jesus Christ gave his peace to disciples who were locked in a room and sorely in need of peace. Let us pass this peace to all who join us today with the words, "Peace be with you!"

(All) Peace be with you!

INTRODUCTION / BLESSINGS FOR OUR NEW SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

Lucinda Edmunds, James Herron, Brent Levine, Richard Rajaratnam, Sophie Weiss

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Appreciating 2026 Lenten Speakers: **Clair Jefferson-Glipa, Josh Ponnuraju, Beverly DeFrance, Yvette and Ben Lomax, and Christina Graves**

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (UM Hymn #882) / **All**

(Pastor) Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

(All) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

(Pastor) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(All) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

(Pastor) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(All) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

*universal

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Give Ear to Our Prayer, O God" by Hal H. Hopson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

A Living Hope

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "He Is Not Here!" by Russell Nagy / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "BELIEVE" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION:** "You Are My All in All" by Dennis Jernigan

Verse 1

You are my strength when I am weak.

You are the treasure that I seek.

You are my all in all.

Seeking you as a precious jewel,

Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.

You are my all in all.

Chorus

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

Verse 2

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,

rising again, I bless Your name.

You are my all in all.

When I fall down, you pick me up.

When I am dry, you fill my cup.

You are my all in all. (Chorus)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 16, John 20) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) We are blessed with what the psalmist calls a "goodly heritage." We are disciples and heirs in the family of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God. Let us give generously, so that others may know the faithfulness of Jesus, alive in our lives, alive in their lives, the very source of healing, joy, and delight.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" by Thomas Gieschen

***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** (Psalm 16, John 20) / Led by Liturgist

Jesus our Protector and Savior, we thank you for every gift you have given us that brings us delight and joy in this life. We thank you for every gift that comes to us in times of despair to lift us up and tend to our sorrows. May these gifts reach out to our world, that others may know your joy, your caring, your deep understanding of despair—and your Life that defeats death. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (EASTER SEASON)

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(Congregation) We lift them up to the Lord.

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

(Congregation) It is right to give 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. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

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

(All sing)

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. 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.

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy 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."

On the day you raised him from the dead, he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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 sing)

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

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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 for ever.

(All sing)

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: "Meditation on 'Easter Hymn'" by Michael Bedford

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: #308** "Thine Be the Glory" by Edmond L. Budry

Verse 1

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

Verse 2

**Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. (Refrain)**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (John 20)

(Pastor) Jesus called out to his disciples, "Peace be with you!"

(Congregation) We praise Jesus, our Lord and our God, for this peace.

(P) Jesus breathed upon the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit!"

(C) We praise Jesus, our Lord and our God, for the Holy Spirit who accompanies us.

(P) As disciples of Jesus Christ, go out into the world with power—to forgive, to touch wounds with healing hands, and to live out the love, life, and power of our Lord and our God.

(All) Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Thine Be the Glory" by A. D. Miller

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Regan Pope, Eduardo Reyes, Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela, Lyle Adams, Ronnie Tovar,
Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes, Sharon Henry, Don Greywood, Wayne Speir,
Rebecca Konegen, Jun Valino, Jon Dugan, Marie Madden, Gitanjali Spencer,
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 Robert Schiffer



James Herron, Richard Rajaratnam, Brent Levine, Lucinda Edmunds, Sophie Weiss

James Herron

My idea for my class is "Paul's Conversion, Letters and Persecution," with brief lessons on EACH of his letters to the churches and his suffering. I have many ideas about various lessons I want to cover. I will try to have talking points and notes for you to review, if you would like them. My plan is to start when he was Saul, discuss his conversion and, over the weeks, study his travels, imprisonment and various missions and letters. I am looking forward to digging back into his life.

Richard Rajaratnam

A Bible Study Class - A Community Participation by Richard Rajaratnam

"Scripture Often Clarifies Scripture "

In this small group study, we will explore Genesis to Revelation over a period of a year or more, as needed. The studies will be grounded in the principles of the UMC and its Wesleyan methodology, namely: A) Scripture reading together in the community, B) Anchored in Prayer, C) With mutual accountability and support.

The study discussions will center in the following:

- What are we hearing from God's Word in understanding his immense loving character, his will, and our obedience to such?
- What are the main learnings from the week's reading?
- What are the key verses?
- What does it teach us about having a very close relationship with Jesus?

We will explore, learn, and study, looking at the Logos' (word) context, historical features, and archeological evidence of the relevant study passages.

See you all there to learn, study, and experience the Lord's Word to us.

Useful materials:

- 1) Your own Bible
- 2) *The Bible Year* by the Rev. Magrey R. Devega (a minister of the UMC family)
- 3) NRSV edition of the Bible

Brent Levine

This small group collaborative Bible study will meet in the Chandler Lounge on Sundays at 8:30 am before church, 3–4 times per month. Our initial focus will be a multi-week study of UMC Pastor Adam Hamilton's book *Making Sense of the Bible*. Next, we will begin a systematic, year-long exploration of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, with an emphasis on sharing with one another how we can apply God's word in our daily lives. Occasionally, we will examine the scripture through the lens of current events. All are welcome, and all you'll need is an NRSV Bible.

Coffee will be provided—come join us for vibrant discussion and community before worship on Sunday mornings!

Lucinda Edmunds

Strengthening Relationships

Participants in this 8-week study will join me in reading and discussing the book of Genesis, focusing on the theme of strengthening relationships. Together we'll explore what scripture can teach us about nurturing our kids, parents, seniors, romantic partners, friends, and those in our community. Along with our Bibles (NRSV updated edition recommended), we'll look at resources by authors Magrey R. Devega, Adam Hamilton, and Walter Harelson. This small group is a hybrid of Zoom, two to three times a month, and at least one monthly in-person meeting, all on Sundays at 5:00 pm. Meeting dates are the following: 4/26, 5/3, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/28. The group will select in-person dates; however, those not able to join in person can still attend virtually.

Sophie Weiss

Join us Wednesday nights for our 7–8 pm Bible study in the Chandler Lounge. The idea is to be spiritually fulfilling to both the inquisitive mind and the overworked body. We will pick a book in the Bible to read through and discuss together during the hour, and an **optional** book/readings on background or related information to read with it at home. If you have time to read the background, read it before the study and offer context when we read aloud the chapters together. If you've got enough work to do during the day, come as you are, read with us in the moment and provide your insights, questions, and meditations as you experience them to keep our eyes fresh and present in our world. God inspired people to write the books in the Bible and still inspires people to create today. I would love to extend the themes we discuss to poems, songs, speeches, artwork, social movements, old and new, original or found, to help us discern prophetic voices in our lives, and to see God speaking to and through us today. As we read, look throughout your week for what around you connects to those ancient stories and bring it back to share at the next meeting. It will help those just joining have a review of where we were and then prepare us to read on to our next chapters.

This Week

Sunday, April 12

- Worship with Holy Communion; introducing new Small Group Bible Study Leaders; Pastor Kim's sermon: "Believe!" - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Luncheon with program (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am

Monday, April 13

- Pastor Kim on vacation April 13-April 19

Tuesday, April 14

- Bible Study with James Herron (Off Campus) - 10 am
- UWF Exec. Board Meeting (Zoom) - 1 pm
- Bell rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm
- SPRC meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Wednesday, April 15

- UWF Walk About (off campus) - 8:30 am
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm
- Bible Study with Sophie Weiss (Chandler Lounge) - 7 pm

Thursday, April 16

- Bible Study with Richard Rajaratnam (Chandler Lounge) - 10 am
- UWF Bible Study (Zoom) - 6:45 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, April 17

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

Sunday, April 19

- Bible Study with Brent Levine (Chandler Lounge) - 8:30 am
- Worship - East District Superintendent Rev. Moonyoung Lee, guest preacher (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- Faith and Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) - 5 pm

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