



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

April 26, 2026 10 am

Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" by Dale Wood / Robert Phillips, organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #318** "Christ is Alive" by Brian Wren / Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.**

Verse 2

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.**

Verse 3

**Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.**

Verse 4

In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

Verse 5

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 23, John 10) / Led by Sarah Overton Fraser, Liturgist
(Liturgist) The Lord is our shepherd.

(People) We are Christ's sheep.

(L) The shepherd shelters us in green pastures.

(P) In Christ, we dwell secure.

(L) The shepherd nourishes us and restores our souls.

(All) Christ is our shepherd and gate to the Most High. Amen!

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Psalm 23, John 10)

(Pastor) The peace of our shepherd passes all understanding. Let us share signs of this peace with one another as we dwell secure in Christ's flock. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (John 10)

Loving Shepherd, you call us as your own. When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure. When evil surrounds us, you give us a home and a safe place to rest. When foes threaten our fellowship, you rescue us from peril. Restore our souls, Gentle Savior, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the ways of goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 12:1-3, 17:6-7 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Call of Abram

12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

17:6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

(Liturgist) This is the Word of God for the people of God!

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Kum Ba Yah (Come By Here)," African-American spiritual arranged by Michael Larkin / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-5** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Jesus the True Vine

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "CALLED TO BE FRUITFUL" (New sermon series, "**Bearing Fruit**," based on the book, **Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results**, by Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Tom Berlin, **#1 of 12**) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #136** "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" by Jesse Seymour Irvine / **All**

Verse 1

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie

in pastures green; he leadeth me

the quiet waters by.

Verse 2

**My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.**

Verse 3

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**

Verse 4

**My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

Verse 5

**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Acts 2) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Some of the earliest memories of the church record acts of generosity, of meeting the needs of any and all. The church earned the goodwill of everyone who witnessed and experienced this gladness. Let us give with open hearts, as our ancient brothers and sisters did.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Shepherd Me, O God" by Jeffrey Honoré

***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** (Acts 2, Psalm 23) / Led by Liturgist
God of Abundant Life, Host of our Table, we devote ourselves and these gifts to your vision of a community that meets the needs of any and all.
We give our gifts of money and work, of prayer and praise, of presence and purpose to our friends and neighbors. Bless our offering, that it may meet the needs, both small and large, of your great and generous blessings. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #666** "Shalom to You" by Elise S. Eslinger (sing 2 times)
Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Psalm 23, John 10)

(Pastor) The Lord is our shepherd.

(Congregation) We shall not want.

(P) In pastures green, we rest secure.

(C) By still waters, we rest secure.

(P) Go with the blessings of our shepherd.

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "The Lord Is My Faithful Shepherd" by Johann Pachelbel

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Lee Ann Salmon, Regan Pope, Bill Ashworth, Eduardo Reyes, Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela, Ronnie Tovar, Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes, Sharon Henry, Jun Valino, Jon Dugan, Marie Madden, Gitanjali Spencer, George Callow, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, Pat Beals, Michael Thompson, Marge Wolter, John and Susan Logger, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Michelle Arguelles, Robert and Benita Roberts, the family of Robert Schiffer

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, April 26

- Bible Study w/Brent Levine (Chandler Lounge) – 8:30-9:45 am
- Fourth Sunday of Easter – Worship, **“CALLED TO BE FRUITFUL”** (New sermon series, **“Bearing Fruit,”** based on the book, **Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results**, by Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Tom Berlin, **#1 of 12**) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) – 10:15 am
- The Habit Fundraiser, 3555 Riverside Plaza Dr. (show flyer or cell phone to server) – 11 am to 9:30 pm
- Hybrid Bible Study w/Lucinda Edmunds – 5:30 pm to 7 pm

Monday, April 27

- Church Council (Zoom) – 7 pm

Tuesday, April 28

- Bible Study w/James Herron (Off Campus: MAGNOLIA GARDENS, 8537 Magnolia Ave, Riverside, 2nd Floor, Community Hall (Library) – 10-11 am
- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 pm

Wednesday, April 29

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

Thursday, April 30

- Bible Study w/Richard Rajaratnam (Chandler Lounge) – 10:30-11:30 am
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Choir Room) – 7 pm

Friday, May 1

- Men’s Prayer Breakfast – 7 am

Saturday, May 2

- Robert “Bob” Schiffer Celebration of Life (Sanctuary) – 11 am

Sunday, May 3

- Bible Study w/Brent Levine (Chandler Lounge) – 8:30-9:45 am
- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) – 9:15 am
- Fifth Sunday of Easter – Worship with Holy Communion, **“INVITED TO LABOR FOR GOD’S HARVEST” (Part I of II)** (Sermon series, **“Bearing Fruit,”** based on the book, **Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results**, by Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Tom Berlin, **#2 of 12**) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Church/Society/Missions meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) – 5 pm

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