



Easter Sunday
New Members Welcoming Sunday
April 5, 2026 10 am



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

PRELUDE: "Easter Carillon" by Robert J. Powell / Brass Ensemble: Isaac Armenta, Trumpet 1; Junior Gallardo, Trumpet 2; Dayton Wong, Trombone 1; Logen Ellis, Trombone 2; accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***INTROIT:** "Easter Fanfare" by E. E. Ferguson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg; accompanied by Brass Ensemble and Robert Phillips

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 118, Acts 10) / Steve Kerrick, Liturgist
(Liturgist) This is the day that the Lord has made.

(People) Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

(L) This is the day of resurrection.

(P) Let us rejoice and celebrate!

(L) This is Easter Sunday.

(All) Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN: #302** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (verses 1-4) by Charles Wesley / **All** / Special arrangement by Cynthia Dobrinski for organ, handbells, choir, and congregation

Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Verse 2

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

Verse 3

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's the victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!**

Verse 4

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Psalm 118, John 20)

(Pastor) With overflowing joy and boundless gratitude for new life in Christ, let us share the triumph of love over hate as we exchange signs of Christ's peace this blessed day. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (John 20, Luke 24)

God of life and love, we are eager to hear the good news of new life. Enter our lives and cast our fears aside. Lead us on a journey from grief and despair to hope and joy. We are ready to celebrate and give thanks for your transforming love. We are eager to rejoice in the glory of this day! Give us Easter spirits and open hearts. Amen!

PRAYER RESPONSE: Amen (Dresden)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION

- **Youth Confirmation: Evelyn Turkson**
- **Reaffirmations of Faith: Nana Gwira, John Thomas Kennedy, Grayson Millias, Stephen Turkson, Jr., and Eileen Walker**
- **Transfer: Vivian Lowe (from Hemet UMC)**



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS:

Through Confirmation, Reaffirmations of Faith & Transfer

INTRODUCTION

(Pastor) Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through confirmation and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

(Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader) I present **Evelyn Turkson** for confirmation. I present **Nana Gwira, John Thomas Kennedy, Grayson Millias, Stephen Turkson, Jr., and Eileen Walker** to reaffirm their faith.

I also present **Vivian Lowe**, who comes to this congregation from Hemet United Methodist Church, California.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

(Pastor addresses all candidates) On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

(Candidates) I do.

(Lay Leader to all candidates) Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

(Candidates) I do.

(Pastor to all candidates) Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

(Candidates) I do.

(Lay Leader addresses all candidates) According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

(Candidates) I will.

(Pastor addresses the congregation) Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

(Congregation) We do.

(Lay Leader to the congregation) Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

(Congregation) With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

CONFIRMATION

(Pastor) *(Evelyn)*, I confirm your ongoing commitment into the life of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and your place in the covenant that was confirmed by God in Christ for all of us. **Amen.**

(Pastor) *(Evelyn)*, the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Pastor) *(Nana/Thomas/Grayson/Stephen, Jr./Eileen/Vivian)*, remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

(Pastor) *(Nana/Thomas/Grayson/Stephen, Jr./Eileen/Vivian)*, the Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Lay Leader) As members of Christ's universal Church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

(Candidates) I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST UMC OF RIVERSIDE

(Pastor addresses all candidates) As members of this congregation, First United Methodist Church of Riverside, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

(Candidates) I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

(Pastor addresses the congregation) Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

(Congregation) We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Riverside, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BLESSINGS FOR THOSE RECEIVED AND WELCOMED

(Pastor) The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace!

(All) Amen!

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP

INTERLUDE: "Ringing Victoriously" by Michael Mazzatenta / Allegro Ringers, directed by Gayla Lonsbery

*** GOSPEL READING: John 11:25-26, 20:1-18** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

The Resurrection of Jesus

20:1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

ANTHEM: "Hallelujah!" from "Messiah" by George Frideric Handel / Aldersgate Chorale with Brass Ensemble and organ, directed by Yvonne Flagg

SERMON: "THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE" (Lent/Easter Sermon Series, "The Message of Jesus," 9 of 9) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #310 "He Lives"** by Alfred H. Ackley / **All**

Verse 1

**I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
and just the time I need him, he's always near.**

Refrain

**He lives (he lives), he lives (he lives),
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives (he lives), he lives (he lives),
salvation to impart!
You asked me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.**

Verse 2

**In all the world around me I see his loving care,
and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
the day of his appearing will come at last. [Refrain]**

Verse 3

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
none other is so loving, so good and kind. [Refrain]**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 118) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) With gratitude and joy, let us bring our gifts for God's use, even as we offer our very lives into God's loving service.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" by James Biery

***DOXOLOGY: #95** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken / **All 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 / All /** Led by Liturgist

May our good work of God's love and the ministries of this church bring new life to a hurting world in need of resurrection. May our gifts touch the lost and lonely with the assurance that in your arms, life never ends and love never dies. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS: Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #322** "Up from the Grave He Arose" by Robert Lowry

Verse 1

**Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!**

Refrain:

**Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

Verse 2

**Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]**

Verse 3

**Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Psalm 118, Mark 16)

(Pastor) Easter people of Jesus Christ, this very day, God has acted.

(Congregation) Jesus is raised from the dead.

(Pastor) Let us rejoice and be glad.

(All) Hallelujah! Amen!

POSTLUDE "Toccata" from "Symphony No. 5" by Charles-Marie Widor



2026 Easter Lily Dedications

In Memory of Denise Lassiter-Benedict by Jeff Benedict

In Memory of David Cudney by Loretta Cudney

In Memory of Clifford and LaVaun Lundquist (my Mom and Dad)
by Patti Gardenias

In Honor of Vaiasini Vaka (Mom) by Talilatu Tupou

In Honor of the Zeeb, the Bong, and the Reupert families by Cindy Marr

In Memory of Clint and Gerry Marr by Cindy Marr

In Memory of Laurel D. McDonald by the McDonald and Rice Families

In Memory of Kathleen Phillips by Robert Phillips

In Honor of Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Kim by Rev. Roy and Cheryl Riggs

In Memory of H.D. and Elsie Basham by Marilyn and Doug Robinson

In Honor of my 107-year-old Aunt Helen by Linda Rydzik

In Honor of the birth of Julian on February 18, 2026, by Linda Rydzik

In Memory of Dottie Anderle, Mary Madonna, and Ervin Salmon
by Daryl and Lee Ann Salmon

In Memory of Raymond and Elizabeth Frègeau
by Lynn Wright and John Frègeau

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Regan Pope, Doug Robinson, Donna Woodard, 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, 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 Robert Schiffer

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 5

- Easter Sunday Worship; Sermon: **"THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE"** (Lent/Easter Sermon Series, **"The Message of Jesus,"** 9 of 9), The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Easter Egg Hunt and Butterfly Release - 11:15 am

Monday, April 6

- Trustees Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm
- Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, April 7

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

Wednesday, April 8

- UWF Walk About (off campus) - 8:30 am
- The Response Rehearsal - 6:15 pm

Thursday, April 9

- UWF Lunch Bunch - Off Campus - 11 AM
- UWF Bible Study, "On Purpose, Finding God's Voice in Your Passion" (Zoom) (4 sessions) Social time 6:45 pm/Study - 7 pm

Friday, April 10

- Men's Prayer Breakfast - 7 am

Saturday, April 11

- UWF Unit Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 10 am

Sunday, April 12

- Worship with Holy Communion; Introduction to the new Small Group Bible Study Leaders - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) - 11 am

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