



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

<https://FirstChurchRiverside.org>

Order of Worship

September 13, 2026 10 am Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Back-to-Church Month; All Church Sunday

**Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE: "The Ash Grove" by Wayne L. Wold / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #158** "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Christian Henry Bateman / Led by Kris Lovekin / **All**

Verse 1

Come, Christians, join to sing:

Alleluia! Amen!

loud praise to Christ our King:

Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,

before his throne rejoice;

praise is his gracious choice.

Alleluia! Amen!

Verse 2

Come, lift your hearts on high:

Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky:

Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend;

to us he'll condescend;

his love shall never end:

Alleluia! Amen!

Verse 3

**Praise yet the Lord again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Family of God, who are you?

(People) We are disciples formed in the image of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

(L) Family of God, how does Jesus form you?

(P) By loving us and showing us how to love.

(L) Family of God, how does the Holy Spirit empower you?

(P) By loving us and inspiring us to love others as Christ loves us.

(L) Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

(All) We come to worship God, who shows us how to love and calls us to boldly love God and neighbor, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026)

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Romans 14, Matthew 18)

(Pastor) Forgiven and loved, we are invited to share signs of forgiveness and love with one another as we pass the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

RECOGNIZING 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS / Loretta Cudney, Co-Chairperson of Christian Education Committee

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON)

Almighty, all-merciful God, through Christ Jesus, you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. As we gather for worship and as we are sent from this place, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Help us to encounter each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ.

Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask these things in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from the 6-week worship resources of "Embracing an Adverbial Faith," by Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church)

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden) / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 19:9-18 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹ "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord.

¹³ "You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

¹⁵ "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

¹⁷ "You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "You Shall Have a Song" by Harriet Ziegenhals / The Aldersgate Chorale

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 12:28-34** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The First Commandment

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

³¹“The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: “I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU” (Sermon series, *“Embracing Acts of Faith,”* #3 of 6) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #384** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” by Charles Wesley / **All Verse 1**

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Verse 2

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Verse 3

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Verse 4

**Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Romans 14) / Led by Liturgist

(Liturgist) In our lives, we live for the Lord. In our offerings, we give for God. May our lives and our generosity reflect our commitment to these truths.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Meditation on 'Beecher'" by Roger Wilson

***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** (Luke 5:1-11) / Led by Liturgist

Gracious Commander of Love, you have taught us what love looks like, and you have commanded us to live it. In a world that rewards fear and self-interest, you call us to give boldly, to serve generously, and to risk loving with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Receive these offerings as signs of our obedience and as seeds of a kingdom where welcome is wide, grace is abundant, and love never holds back. We give, not from obligation, but from the joy of being shaped by your love. In Christ's name, Amen.

(Adapted from the 6-week worship resources of "Embracing an Adverbial Faith," by Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church)

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Liturgist

***SENDING HYMN: #664** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" by Omer Westendorf / **All**

Verse 1

**Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God
from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended,
O now be extended
the fruits of our worship
in all who believe.**

The seed of the teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action
for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us,
and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom
and answer the call.

Verse 2

With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life
we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children
of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one
in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ
and that name which we bear.

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

(Pastor) Blessed by God,

(Congregation) may we bless the world in the week ahead.

(P) Loved by Christ,

(C) may we love others, in all we say and do.

(P) Empowered by the Spirit,

(All) may we follow faithfully where God leads. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Carolyn Hamlin.

New Members Welcoming Sunday will be September 27th

If you have not discussed with Pastor Kim your desire to join the church yet, please do so. Pastor Kim, (951) 683-7831, pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org or inform the church office: (951) 683-7831, secretary@firstchurchriverside.org

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Jaque Vaca, Carolyn Greywood, Christina Maddox's nephew Charlie (10 yrs.), Linda Rydzik, Julian Cardenas, Vivian Lowe, Julie Williams, Reko Williams, Neko Williams, David Cardenas, Patrick Russell, Isaiah Whisner, Cynthia Diaz, Ruth Martinez, Don Larsen, Susan Reardon, Rollin Edmunds, Gary Spencer, Lee Ann Salmon, Dean Michalka, James Herron, Eric Russler, Tom Kennedy, Christina Graves, Bob Bahnsen, Virginia Bahnsen, Regan Pope, 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, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Michelle Arguelles, John and Susan Logger, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Robert and Benita Roberts, Scott and DeAnn McWilliams, our families, neighbors, country, and world

Sunday, September 13

- Worship: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Back-to-Church Month; ALL CHURCH SUNDAY; Pastor Kim's sermon: **"I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU"** (Sermon series, **"Embracing Acts of Faith,"** #3 of 6) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (upstairs, Youth Room) - 10:15 am
- UMM Lunch Program (Fellowship Hall) - 11:15 am
- Youth U.P.L.I.F.T. Dinner (Youth Room) - 5 pm

Monday, September 14,

- Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Tuesday, September 15

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (MPR) - 7 pm

Wednesday, September 16

- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) - 6:30 am
- "Parents Morning Out,"* Wednesdays. Contact: Christina Graves, (951) 212-5725, childrensdirectore@firstchurchriverside.org (Nursery) - 9 am - 12 pm
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 17

- Bible Study w/Richard (Chandler Lounge) - 9:30 am
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm
- Rev. Roy Riggs, *"Social Principles of The United Methodist Church"* (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Friday, September 18

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 am
- FUMPS Parents' Pasta Night (FH) - 4 pm

Saturday, September 19

- Community Players Fellowship (off campus) - 2:30 pm

Sunday, September 20

- Worship: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Back-to-Church Month; Family Sunday with The Response; Pastor Kim's sermon: **"IF YOU WANT TO BE GREAT"** (Sermon series, **"Embracing Acts of Faith,"** #4 of 6) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (upstairs, Youth Room) - 10:15 am

-Youth U.P.L.I.F.T. Dinner (Youth Room) – 5 pm

Music Copyright License Information

Prelude: "The Ash Grove" by Wayne L. Wold. ©2001 Augsburg Fortress, OneLicense Song #AF2019029, OneLicense #A735776.

Processional Hymn: #158 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Christian Henry Bateman. Harmonization by Austin Lovelace, ©1964 Abington Press, OneLicense Song #24830, OneLicense #A735776.

Prayer Response: "Amen" (Dresden). Public domain.

Anthem: "You Shall Have a Song" by Harriet Ziegenhals. ©1985 and this arrangement ©2005 Hope Publishing Company, One License Song #87677, OneLicense #A735776.

Hymn of Dedication: #384 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" by Charles Wesley. Public domain.

Offertory: "Meditation on 'Beecher'" by Roger Wilson. ©1951 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation, OneLicense Song #1038696, OneLicense #A735776.

Doxology: #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken. Public domain.

Sending Hymn: #664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing." Words by Omer Westendorf, ©1964 World Library Publications, Inc., OneLicense Song #40362, OneLicense #A735776. Music: Welsh folk tune harmonized by Leland Sateren, ©1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion, OneLicense Song #101714, OneLicense #A735776.

Postlude: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Carolyn Hamlin. ©1997 Fred Bock Music Company, OneLicense Song #FBC-A004674, OneLicense #A735776.