



Sunday Worship

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

Order of Worship

September 27, 2026 10 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Back-to-Church Month;
New Members Welcoming Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Prélude" by César Franck / Robert Phillips, Organist

*TRINITY BELLS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #127** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" by William Williams /
Yvonne Flagg, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more; (want no more)
feed me till I want no more.

Verse 2

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield; (strength and shield)
be thou still my strength and shield.

Verse 3

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee; (give to thee)
I will ever give to thee.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by Josephine Essien, Liturgist

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

(People) Because God is with us, we can love boldly.

(L) God is with us, and God joins us with one another as the Body of Christ.

(P) Because God draws us together, we can serve joyfully.

(L) Through God, we work for the flourishing of self, neighbor, and all creation.

(P) Because God holds us together, we can lead courageously.

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

(All) We come to worship God by boldly loving, joyfully serving, and courageously leading, 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** (Philippians 2)

(Pastor) Let us share signs of encouragement, compassion, consolation, and love, 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)

Holy One of mystery and power, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below, keeping covenant and steadfast love with all who walk before you with pure and upright hearts. Fill our lives with your glory, as you filled the temple with cloud when Solomon first brought the ark into your holy dwelling place. Give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of evil at work in our lives and in our world. 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



Welcoming New Members Celebration:

Through Baptism & Reaffirmations of Faith

(New Members Welcoming Sunday, September 27, 2026)

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 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 **Austin Jeffrey Chandler** and **Michael Scott Chandler** for Baptism.

I also present **Sean Luke Lomax**, **Michael Christian McDonald**, and **Tara Danielle Powers** to reaffirm their faith.

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.

(Pastor 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.

(Lay Leader 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.

(Pastor 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.

BAPTISM

(Pastor) *(Austin/Scott)*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(Pastor) *(Austin/Scott)*, 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) *(Sean/Michael/Tara)*, remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

(Pastor) *(Sean/Michael/Tara)*, 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: "Swing Low" by Joe Utterback / Robert Phillips, organist

SCRIPTURE READING: Joshua 1:5-9 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Be Strong and Courageous

⁵ "No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall lead this people to possess the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹ I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Lean on Me (Everlasting Arms)," arranged by Pepper Choplin / The Aldersgate Chorale; Sean Lomax, soloist

SERMON: "TRUST AND OBEY" (Sermon series, **"Embracing Acts of Faith,"** #5 of 6) /
The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #467** "Trust and Obey" by John M. Sammis / **All**

Verse 1

**When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

**Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

Verse 2

**Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. (Refrain)**

Verse 4

**Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. (Refrain)**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Let us open our hearts with God's love for everyone! May we and our gifts bring unity to a world in strife!

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Trust and Obey" by Robert J. Powell

***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** / Led by Liturgist

Faithful God, you are our strength and our shield, our guide through seasons of uncertainty. You promise never to leave us nor forsake us, and in that promise, we find courage. As Joshua stepped forward in faith and as your people put on the armor of light, so we bring these gifts with boldness — offering not only what is in our hands, but also what is in our hearts. Use them, and us, to build your kingdom with justice and grace. Clothe us with truth, guard us with peace, and send us forward, leading courageously in your 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

***SENDING HYMN: #147** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" by Cecil Frances Alexander / **All**

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all.**

Verse 1

**Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. (Refrain)**

Verse 2

**The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky. (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. (Refrain)**

Verse 4

**God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. (Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" by Paul Manz

Coming Soon!

NEXT: New Members Welcoming Sunday will be October 11th!

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

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Jaque Vaca, Christina Maddox's nephew Charlie (10 yrs.), Linda Rydzik, John McDonald, 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, 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, the family of Grace Reyes, our families, neighbors, country, and world

This Week

Sunday, September 27

- American Red Cross Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall) - 8 am - 1 pm
- Bible Study w/Brent (Chandler Lounge) - 8:30 - 9:45 am
- Worship: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost; New Members Welcome Sunday; Pastor Kim's sermon: **"TRUST AND OBEY"** (Sermon series, **"Embracing Acts of Faith,"** #5 of 6) (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am - 11 am
- Youth Worship - 10:15 am (2nd and 4th Sundays)
- "The Habit" Fundraiser, 3555 Riverside Plaza Drive, Suite S-100. Must show printed flyer or show flyer on cell phone. Flyers in the Narthex. Church will earn 20% of sales. 11 am - 9 pm
- Small Group Bible Study w/Lucinda (Zoom) - 5pm - 7pm

Monday, September 28

- Church Council (Zoom) - 7pm

Tuesday, September 29

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (MPR) - 7 pm

Wednesday, September 30

- Wednesday (9/30) through Friday (10/2): Pastor taking Continuing Education courses
- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) – 7:30 am
- Parents' Morning Out (Preschool Rm. 2) – 9am to 12pm
- Bible Study w/Sophie (Chandler Lounge) – 7pm

Thursday, October 1

- The Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) – 7 pm
- Rev. Roy Riggs' Study Group: "Social Principles of The United Methodist Church" (Mary's Kitchen) – 7 pm

Friday, October 2

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (MPR) – 7 am

Saturday, October 3

- Blessing of the Animals (front lawn) – 10 am to 12 pm

Sunday, October 4

- Bible Study w/Brent (Chandler Lounge) – 8:30 – 9:45 am
- Chapel Prayer – 9:15 am
- Worship – "World Communion Sunday"; "UMC Miracle Sunday" (Special Offering to support UMC Missionaries and Pastors in training); Sermon: **"REMARKABLY FAITHFUL AND HONEST DISCIPLES"** (Sermon series, **"Embracing Acts of Faith,"** #6 of 6) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) – 5 pm
- Small Group Bible Study w/Lucinda (Zoom) – 5 pm – 7 pm

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