



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506
<https://firstchurchriverside.org>

Order of Worship

September 6, 2026 10 am

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion Sunday
Back-to-Church Month

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "In the Sweet By and By" by Marianne Kim / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***OPENING HYMN:** "Sweet By and By" by Sanford F. Bennett / **All** / Led by Yvonne Flagg

Verse 1

There's a land that is fairer than day,
and by faith we can see it afar;
for the Father waits over the way
to prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain

In the sweet (*in the sweet*)
by and by, (*by and by*)
we shall meet on that beautiful shore.
In the sweet (*in the sweet*)
by and by, (*by and by*)
we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

Verse 2

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
the melodious songs of the blest;
and our spirits shall sorrow no more,
not a sigh for the blessing of rest. (Refrain)

Verse 3

To our bountiful Father above
we will offer our tribute of praise,
for the glorious gift of his love
and the blessings that hallow our days.

Refrain

In the sweet (*in the sweet*)
by and by, (*by and by*)
we shall meet on that beautiful shore.
In the sweet (*in the sweet*)
by and by, (*by and by*)
we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Matthew 14) / Led by David Fraser, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Family of God, when we feel afraid and pressed in on every side...

(People) The Spirit protects and advocates for us.

(L) When the world's problems seem too big to solve, and we don't know how to do the next right thing...

(P) The Spirit comforts and strengthens us.

(L) When we need wisdom to know what is ours to do and the courage to act...

(P) The Spirit counsels and empowers us.

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

(All) Today, we call once again on the Holy Spirit to empower us to live as 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** (Matthew 18)

(Pastor) Jesus teaches us the importance of reconciliation and being in harmony with one another. When we seek peace and understanding, Christ is present among us, bringing healing and unity. As we pass the peace of Christ today, let us do so with open hearts, ready to forgive, ready to listen, and ready to love as Christ has loved us. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-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*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Christina Graves

SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 2:6-10 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Fullness of Life in Christ

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "He Is the Son of God" by Danny Lee / Leslie Tomlinson and Jennifer Walker, duet

***GOSPEL READING: John 10:7-11 (NRSVue) / Liturgist**

Living the Abundant Life Today

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

SERMON: "PIE-IN-THE-SKY-WHEN-YOU-DIE" (Sermon series, *"Embracing Acts of Faith," #2 of 6*) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #618** "Let Us Break Bread Together," African-American spiritual adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith

Verse 1

**Let us break bread together on our knees, *(on our knees)*
let us break bread together on our knees. *(on our knees)*
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. *(on me)***

Verse 2

**Let us drink wine together on our knees, *(on our knees)*
let us drink wine together on our knees. *(on our knees)*
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. *(on me)***

Verse 3

**Let us praise God together on our knees, *(on our knees)*
let us praise God together on our knees. *(on our knees)*
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. *(on me)***

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Our Abundant God has called us beyond survival into life—abundant, rooted, and overflowing. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "When We Are Living" by Charles Callahan

***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

Gracious God: You invite us to walk by faith, not as individuals alone, but as a community growing together in Christ's fullness. Receive now these gifts we offer, not out of scarcity or obligation, but in joyful response to your goodness. Use them—and use us—to build up the body, to bless the world, and to proclaim that, in you, there is always more: more joy, more hope, more life. We give, trusting that you are still planting, still building, still transforming us into bold and joyful disciples. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(People) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(People) We lift them up to God.

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

(People) 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, God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters. 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. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word.

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

(All singing)

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) 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."

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 singing) 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 cup. 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 and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, showing forth the fruit of the Spirit 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 Father, now and for ever.

(All singing) 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 an 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: “Let Us Break Bread Together” by Gilbert M. Martin

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: #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.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: “Toccata Perpetua” by Lani Smith

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

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, Barbara Spencer, 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

This Week

Sunday, September 6

- Chapel Prayer - 9:15 am
- Worship: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Back-to-Church Month; Holy Communion Sunday; Pastor Kim's sermon: **"PIE-IN-THE-SKY-WHEN-YOU-DIE"** (Sermon series, **"Embracing Acts of Faith,"** #2 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

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day Holiday - Church office (whole campus) is closed

Tuesday, September 8

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (MPR) - 7 pm
- SPRC Meeting (Zoom) - 7 pm

Wednesday, September 9

- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) - 6:30 am
- Wednesdays - Parents Morning Out (The Ark) - 9 am to 12 noon
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 10

- Bible Study w/Richard (Chandler Lounge) - 9:30 am
- UWiF Lunch Bunch (off campus) - 11 am to 2 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) - 7 pm

Friday, September 11

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

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

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