



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

Order of Worship

October 18, 2026 10 am

Together by Grace; Be Grounded in Love

Laity Sunday with The Response

**Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE: "Here I Am, Lord" by Charles Callahan / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***INTROIT:** "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple" by C. Albert Scholin / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 119) / Led by Steve Kerrick, Liturgist

Leader: We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.

All: Grounded in love, we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

Leader: The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

All: Grounded in love, we belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.

Leader: The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

All: Grounded in love, we belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.

Leader: Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

All: We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** "Blessed Be Your Name" by Beth Redman and Matt Redman / **All** /
Led by The Response

Verse 1

**Blessed be your name
in the land that is plentiful,
where your streams of abundance flow,
blessed be your name.**

Verse 2

**Blessed be your name
when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness,
blessed be your name.**

Pre-Chorus

**Every blessing you pour out I'll
turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say,**

Chorus

**"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your glorious name."**

Verse 3

**Blessed be your name
when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's "all as it should be,"
blessed be your name.**

Verse 4

**Blessed be your name
on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessed be your name.**

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Bridge

**You give and take away,
you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
"Lord, blessed be your name."**

Chorus (2 times)

WELCOME / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

(Leader) As you share signs of peace, know that we are together in this world by God's Grace. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER / Rev. Beverly Devine

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Luke 18)

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways.

Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, and give you all the things that are yours. All we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden) / The Aldersgate Chorale

INTERLUDE: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" by Graham Kendrick, arranged by Peggy Bettcher / The Allegro Ringers, directed by Gayla Lonsbery

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lucinda Edmunds

INTERLUDE: "River of Life" by Mac Powell, Ethan Hulse, and Jonathan Smith / The Response

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 126 (Common English Bible) / Liturgist

When the Lord changed Zion's circumstances for the better, it was like we had been dreaming. Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts. It was even said, at that time, among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them!" Yes, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed. Lord, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste! Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts. Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed, come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, arranged by Lloyd Larson / The Aldersgate Chorale

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 4:24-35 (NRSV) / Liturgist

When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant: 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples imagine vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers have gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.' For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and the signs and wonders are preformed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

SERMON: "The Labor of the Church" / Sophie Weiss, Lay Servant Leader

***HYMN OF DEDICATION:** "This Is Amazing Grace" by Josh Farro, Phil Wickham, Jeremy Riddle / **All** / Led by The Response

Verse 1

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

Verse 2

**Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,
who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

Chorus

**This is amazing grace,
this is unfailing love,
that you would take my place,
that you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life
that I would be set free.
Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.**

Verse 3

**Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.**

Verse 4

**Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

Chorus

**This is amazing grace,
this is unfailing love,
that you would take my place,
that you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life
that I would be set free.
Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.**

Bridge

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy, worthy!**

Chorus

**This is amazing grace,
this is unfailing love,
that you would take my place,
that you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life
that I would be set free.
Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.
Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.
Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Led by Liturgist

(Liturgist) O God that sees bounty lying in the smallest of seeds, see in this offering missions of hope, and grace, and resurrection in our community and in our world.

(All) Amen!

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

OFFERTORY: "Adagio from Sonata No. 1" by Felix Mendelssohn

***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**

Your promise is written on our hearts, dear God, and your strength is in the work of our hands. We offer you all that we have and all that we are, that your love may be made known throughout your world. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin

***SENDING HYMN: #593** "Here I Am, Lord" by Dan Schutte / **All**

Verse 1

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Verse 2

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)**

Verse 3

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)
I will hold your people in my heart.**

***BENEDICTION** (Psalm 126)

Restore us, O Lord. Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing the seeds of your kingdom. In our uncertainty, let us bear witness to the sprouts of resurrection in this place and in our world, knowing you are at work in your holy creation. Let us feel that rising of our own hope and join in this work in making all things new. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: "Toccata Eroica" by Edward Broughton

Please join us on the patio for our Fall Festival to find out more about church committees and fellowship opportunities.

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In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Crystal Foote, Rev. Bev Devine, Myla Holmes, Isaiah Whisner, Cynthia Diaz, Jaque Vaca, Christina Maddox's nephew Charlie, Linda Rydzik, John McDonald, Julian Cardenas, Vivian Lowe, Julie Williams, Reko Williams, Neko Williams, David Cardenas, Patrick Russell, Ruth Martinez, Don Larsen, Susan Reardon, Rollin Edmunds, Gary Spencer, 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

2026-2027 All Church Conference

The Rev. Roy Riggs, Presiding Elder

All members welcome!

Sunday, November 15, 2026, 3 pm

Fellowship Hall

**All committee and ministry reports are due
to the Church Office, by noon, on October 27.**

This Week

Sunday, Oct. 18

- Bible Study w/Brent Levine (Chandler Lounge) – 8:30 am
- Worship with the Response for Laity Sunday; sermon, **“The Labor of the Church”** by Sophie Weiss (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Fall Festival (Fellowship Hall) – 11 am – 1 pm
- Small Group Bible Study w/Lucinda (Chandler Lounge) – 5 pm

Monday, Oct. 19

- Finance Committee meeting (Zoom) – 5:30 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 20

- Allegro Bells rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 21

- UWiF Walk about – 8:30 am
- Parents’ Morning Out (Nursery) – 9 am to 12 pm
- Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 pm
- Bible Study w/Sophie (Chandler Lounge) – 7 pm

Thursday, Oct. 22

- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal – 7 pm

Friday, Oct. 23

- Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 am

Saturday, Oct. 24

- Organ concert, “Skeleton Keys,” by Robert Phillips, organist (Sanctuary) – 7 pm

Sunday, Oct. 25

- Bible Study w/Brent Levine (Chandler Lounge) – 8:30 am
- Worship: Commitment/Pledge Sunday (Bring your pledge); Sermon, **“THE HILARIOUS GIVER,”** by Rev. J. T. Kim (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Youth Worship (Youth Room) – 10:15 am
- The Habit Fundraiser – 11 am – 9:30 pm
- Halloween Hop (Fellowship Hall) – 5 pm

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