

# Riverside United Methodist Church

Interfaith Respect Sunday • May 10, 2020 • 9:30 AM

We gather online to worship in the name of the  
+the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit+

## GATHERING

### Gathering Music

### Call to Worship

adapted from *Mishkan T'Filah: A Reform Siddur* (Judaism)

One: May the door of this church be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for friendship.

**All: May it welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture.**

One: May the door of this church be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

**All: May its threshold be no stumbling block to young or straying feet.**

One: May it be too high to admit complacency, selfishness, and harshness.

**All: May this church be, for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life.**

### Processional Hymn

### *Bring Many Names*

TFWS 2047

1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
celebrate, in parable and story  
holiness and glory, living, loving God.  
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

2 Strong mother God, working night and day,  
planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation genius at play:  
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

3 Warm father God, hugging every child,  
feeling all the pains of human living,  
caring and forgiving 'til we're reconciled:  
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

4 Old, aching God, gray with endless care,  
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
glad at good surprises, wiser than despair:  
Hail and hosanna, old, aching God!

5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,  
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
crying out for justice, giving all you have:  
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

6 Great, living God, never fully known,  
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
Hail and hosanna, great, living God!

### Invocation

### *Praising God of Many Names*

UMH 104

O burning Mountain, O chosen Sun, O perfect Moon, O fathomless Well, O unattainable Height, O Clearness beyond measure,  
O Wisdom without end, O Mercy without limit, O Strength beyond resistance, O Crown beyond all majesty: the humblest thing  
you created sings your praise. Amen.

### Gathering the Community

## THE WORD

### **Modern Lesson** from *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor

There are many other ways that teaching Christianity has changed my practice of Christianity, but the one that has taken me farthest from the center of my tribe is the conviction that Christians do not have sole custody of the only way to God. I am willing to accept that Jesus is the only way for Christians. I am unwilling to accept that Christians get to decide he is the only way for everyone else too. According to the King James Version of the Bible, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." As Huston Smith once said, everything hinges on what you think he meant when said "I." He was sitting around the Last Supper table when he said it, and I am pretty sure the subject was not interfaith relations. The subject was Jesus' imminent arrest, his almost certain death, and the real possibility that the people sitting around the table with him would be the next to die, because they had chosen his way, his truth, and his life. To my ear, at least, he is reassuring them that they have made the right choice. He is the only way for them. His truth is the one they have bet their lives on, and he wants them to know that it leads straight to the Father. There is no other way for them now. This is the only way of life.

#### **Call to Prayer**

*Listen for the Call of God*

*Community of Christ Sings 343*

Listen for the call of God, ringing through the morning air:  
steeple bell or muezzin\* cry, bidding people, "Come to prayer."  
Feel the rhythmic pulse that thrums through the chant of beating drums.  
Tribes and nations, one and all, hush and listen: hear the call!

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Easter Alleluia**

*Sing Alleluia to the Lord*

TFWS 2258

Sing alleluia to the Lord.  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.  
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!  
Sing alleluia to the Lord!

#### **Gospel Reading** John 14:1-14

One: God be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
One: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John  
**All: Glory to you, O God.**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

\* In Islam, the *muezzin* is the cantor who chants the first Surah of the Qur'an, which is the Muslim call to prayer.

One: This is the Gospel of New Life.

All: **All praise to Christ!**

## Response

*Sing Alleluia to the Lord*

TFWS 2258

In Christ, the world has been redeemed.  
In Christ, the world has been redeemed.  
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!  
Sing alleluia to the Lord!

## Sermon

*Our Easter Journey:  
Following the Way, the Truth, and the Life*

Rev. Keith A. Turner

## THE EUCHARIST

### Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory Hymn

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

UMH 121

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and more graces for the good!  
There is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.

3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of our mind  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

4 If our love were but more simple,  
we should rest upon God's word;  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the presence of our Lord.

### The Great Thanksgiving for Easter

One: Lift up your heads

All: **We lift them up to God**

One: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them up to the Lord**

One: Lift up your hands

All: **We dedicate our heads, our hearts, and our hands to the worship of God.**

We offer our entire being to the God of Creation, who made the sun and the moon to govern by day and by night and hung the stars in the sky. We offer our entire being to the great God who hollowed out the valleys and bulged up the mountains, who spat out the seven seas, and populated the world with glorious creatures. Blessed be the name of the Lord who created us and fashioned us from the dust and breathed into us the breath of life.

And so we praise you and bless you, Creator God, joining our voices in the ancient hymn of all creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of 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.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who came to us in spite of our destructive ways. He healed the sick, raised the dead and cast out demons. In the brief time that he was with us, Jesus sided with the oppressed, had compassion for those who suffer, and gave dignity to women and children. He taught us in word and deed about a God we had been unable to understand.

In spite of his glory-revealing presence among us, we turned him into a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Jesus was persecuted by certain religious leaders and betrayed by one of his own. He was lied about, tortured, and hung on a cross to die.

Yet, even on the day of his crucifixion, Jesus continued to teach those who would listen. When evil people came with his betrayer, Jesus did not respond with violence, choosing instead to remind us that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. When he was falsely accused and condemned to death, Jesus refused to do harm. And while hanging on the cross, he prayed: "God forgive them, for they know not what they do." But we give you thanks that nothing ever was, or ever will be, able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

On the morning of the third day Jesus laughed at death, shed his grave clothes, and walked among us alive! Forty days later, he ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of the God of our ancestors. Our eyes are turned toward the skies looking for the day when Jesus shall return to a kingdom without end, where the lion will lie down peaceably with the lamb, where sickness and disease are not known where the wicked will cease from troubling and we will study war no more!

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he shared a meal with his disciples. He took bread from the table, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my lifeblood 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."

Today, Jesus, we remember the bread and the cup. Today, we remember your life and your death. We remember your resurrection; we remember eternal life. As we receive these gifts in praise and thanksgiving we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine; make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Wonder-working God, pour out your Spirit upon us; as we offer ourselves to be God's presence in the world until Jesus returns in glory.

One: Almighty God, We your people cry out to you on behalf of our community:

Have mercy upon all who suffer from the evils of poverty.

**All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.**

One: Have mercy upon all who have lost their way.

**All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.**

One: Have mercy upon all who have been offended by the church.

**All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.**

One: Have mercy upon all who feel forgotten and neglected.

**All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.**

**Amen, amen, amen!**

**Amen, amen, amen!**

Have mercy upon us Triune God,  
and make us worthy to be called your people  
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

## The Lord's Prayer

setting by Mark Miller

Our God, in heaven, holy is your name.  
Your reign come.  
Your will done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,

and help us forgive as we have been forgiven.  
In the time of trial, lead us into life.  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Our God in heaven, holy is your name.  
Holy is your name.

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Hymn during Communion

### *God of Many Names*

UMH 105

1 God of many names, gathered into One,  
in your glory come and meet us,  
moving, endlessly becoming;  
God of hovering wings, womb and birth of time,  
joyfully we sing your praises,  
breath of life in every people, **R**

**R** Hush, hush, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Shout, shout, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Sing, sing, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Sing God is love, God is love!

2 God of Jewish faith, exodus and law,  
in your glory come and meet us,  
joy of Miriam and Moses;  
God of Jesus Christ, rabbi of the poor,  
joyfully we sing your praises,  
crucified, alive forever, **R**

3 God of wounded hands, web and loom of love,  
in your glory come and meet us,  
carpenter of new creation;  
God of many names, gathered into One,  
joyfully we sing your praises,  
moving, endlessly becoming, **R**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### SENDING

### Closing Hymn

### *God of Love and God of Power*

UMH 578

1 God of love and God of power,  
grant us in this burning hour  
grace to ask these gifts of thee,  
daring hearts and spirits free.  
God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.

2 We are not the first to be  
banished by our fears from thee;  
give us courage, let us hear  
heaven's trumpets ringing clear.  
God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.

3 All our lives belong to thee,  
thou our final loyalty;  
slaves are we whene'er we share  
that devotion anywhere.  
God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.

4 God of love and God of power,  
make us worthy of this hour;  
offering lives if it's thy will,  
keeping free our spirits still.  
God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.

## Responsive Benediction

*Dnyanadev's Benediction (Hinduism)*

One: And now may God, the Soul of the Universe, be pleased with this, our offering of words. And being pleased, may God give us this favor in return: That the crookedness of evil men and women cease, and the love of goodness grow in them. May all beings experience one from another the friendship of heart. May the darkness of sin disappear. May the Universe see the rising of the Sun of Righteousness. Whatever is desired, may it be received by every living being.

All: **May the multitude of those who love God and shower on humankind all forms of blessings; may they constantly, on this earth, come in touch with its living beings.**

One: May this forest of walking wish-trees, may this city built of living wish-gems, may this talking sea of nectar, may these moons without dark spots, may these suns without fierce heat, may all these ever-good ones be the close kin of humankind.

All: **And now in every form of happiness may there be enjoyment to the full everywhere. And may God be worshipped forever and ever. Amen**

## Sending Music