



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance

## Online Church in Worship

September 1, 2024

**PRELUDE - Josh**

### **WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Welcome, Beloved of God! For truly, you are deeply, wonderfully, beautifully loved by the God of all creation!

**All: Come, let us worship God who loves us!**

Leader: Whether your week was filled with mountain-high joys or valley-low sorrows, peace like a gently flowing river, or stress like a stormy gale, this is the time to rise and come away to worship God who sustains and tends to you.

**All: Come, let us worship God who loves us and tends to us!**

Leader: In a world that pulls us this way and that, God's love is our True North, guiding us with an uncommon wisdom through all that life brings us.

**All: Come, let us worship God who loves us and guides us!**

Leader: Beloved, the time for singing has come, because God's love, care, and wisdom sustain and guide us wherever we go.

**All: Come, let us worship and sing to the God who loves, tends, guides, and sustains us! Amen!**

*(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)*

### **OPENING HYMN #384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (v. 1, 2, 4)**

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.

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.

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.

### **Love Divine (Beecher)**

Charles Wesley | John Zundel  
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### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION, inspired by Psalm 15**

Leader: Holy God,

**People: we do not deserve to be in your dwelling place. We have not led a blameless life. We have not done what is right in your sight or spoken the truth that you have sealed in our hearts. We have done evil to both those we love and to those we refuse to love as we should. We have not been faithful stewards of that which we have been blessed and have hoarded that which should be shared with the least of these. Hear our cry, God of our hope, as we confess that which weighs us down...**

Leader: Redeeming God,

**People: save us from our foolishness and guide us to your wisdom. Gather us in your righteousness and redemption. Forgive us for we are seeking your light and your salvation. Cleanse us of our brokenness that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

Leader: Because we are not worthy to enter God's dwelling, God came to dwell with us through the body and being of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Christ came to be with us, amongst us, and for us. Hear the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

People: Alleluia! Amen!

*(Written by Stephen Fearing and posted on "Wild and Precious Life,")*

**HOLY COMMUNION, The United Methodist Hymnal, page 15****The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts  
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*...The pastor concludes:*

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

**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.**

*...The pastor concludes:*

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.

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

*The pastor concludes:*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER**

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, the power, and glory forever. Amen.

### **OFFERING**

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC - Josh**

### **DOXOLOGY**

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.

**Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)**

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

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### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, we bring these offerings with hearts full of love and gratitude, inspired by the beauty of your creation and the love that binds us. Just as the Song of Solomon celebrates love's arrival, we dedicate these gifts to further your kingdom with joy and patience. May they bring hope, peace, and transformation, reflecting your love for all. Help us to be stewards of your grace and love in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*(Song of Solomon 2:8-13)*

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 9:33-37 (NRSV)

33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” 34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” 36 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37 “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

*Response*

The Word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

**Congregational Anthem, Hymn #431** *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth,  
the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator,  
children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;  
let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take,  
let this be my solemn vow:

to take each moment and live each moment  
in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me.

**Let There Be Peace On Earth**

Jill Jackson | Sy Miller

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**SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee**

*The Gospel of Mark: Who Is the Greatest*

**CLOSING HYMN #581** *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* (v. 1, 4)

1. Lord, whose love through humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
offered mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose  
every gift that you impart.

4. Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know, and live.

**Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service**

Albert F. Bayly | B.F. White | Ronald A. Nelson

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**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE - Josh****Online Giving**

If you are able, please give your tithes and offerings through our secure portal at  
<https://firstumctorrance.org/giving/>.

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