



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

February 2, 2025

PRELUDE - Hani

Morning Reverie

Steven Scott

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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Leader: Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Leader: We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Leader: Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

**All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #191 *Jesus Loves Me* (v. 1, 2, 3)

1. Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying "Let them come to me."

Refrain

3. Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Jesus Loves Me

Anna Bartlett Warner | William Batchelder Bradbury
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News. But sometimes, we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes we are unable to share because the people know us too well. You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better. But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them. In a multitude of ways, we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening, we have left the path of true wisdom and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track.

(...moment of silent prayer...)

(Words of Assurance)

Leader: This is the time of God's favor, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, Good News to the poor, and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven, and free people through the grace of God!

All: Hallelujah! Amen.

(Adapted from Rev. Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings)

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.

HYMN NO. 191 *Jesus Loves Me* (Refrain Only)

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus Loves Me

Anna Bartlett Warner | William Batchelder Bradbury
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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 - Hani**Softly and Tenderly**

Will Lamartine Thompson | Arr. Lani Smith
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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

Compassionate God, who sees beyond our boundaries and loves without limit, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim your good news, heal the broken, and extend your love to all, especially those we struggle to accept. Transform our gifts into a beacon of hope and inclusion that reflects the boundless love of Christ in every corner of our community. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

(Luke 4:21-30)

SCRIPTURE Luke 4:16-30 (NRSV)

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
 and recovery of sight to the blind,
 to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” 23 He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” 24 And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Response

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Chancel Choir

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Brian Doerksen | Arr. Jack Schrader

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SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee

He Passed Through the Midst of Them

CLOSING HYMN #361 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (v. 1, 3, 4)

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Rock Of Ages (Toplady)

Augustus Montague Toplady | Thomas Hastings

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Hani

Grand Toccata

Gerald Peterson

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