



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance

## Online Church in Worship

January 26, 2025  
United Women in Faith Sunday

### PRELUDE - Hani

Andantino in A flat Major  
Cesar Franck  
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### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With holy reverence, we remember irreplaceable women, O God. We honor those who nurtured us and taught us to honor and love you, O God.

**All: May their example of Christian faith help transform us into your image.**

Leader: We honor women who feed the hungry, clothe the unclothed, befriend the lonely, and comfort the comfortless. We bless them for unselfishly loving your people as you love us.

**All: May you continue to meet their needs as they minister to others.**

Leader: We honor women grieving the loss of loved ones.

**All: May you, O God, continue to comfort them with your Word, spoken and blessed. May we learn to encourage them as they have encouraged us.**

Leader: We honor women pregnant with your unborn sons and daughters, O God.

**All: May You shelter them and the children they bear under the shadow of your almighty Presence.**

Leader: We honor our sisters throughout the world who need your spiritual, economic, and physical healing.

**All: May you meet their needs, Holy One, according to your riches in glory, we pray.**

Leader: We honor all the women who have gone before us, named and unnamed.

**All: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: We bless those who wept for us, rejoiced with us, wiped our tears, prayed for us, and laughed with us.

**All: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: We bless those who undauntedly sacrificed for us.

**All: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: We honor all those who stand alongside and for these women. We bless those who encourage them to dream, who bring out the best in them, who help them bear their burdens, and who love them rightly, O God.

**All: May You watch over and keep all your people, these women and all who love them, with your care, gracious God. Consecrate this day for your glory. In the name of the Triune God, the one who parents us and creates us, who redeems us, and empowers us forever. Amen.**

*(by Rev. Stacey Cole Wilson, a member of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference)*

**OPENING HYMN #111** *How Can We Name a Love* (v. 1, 3, 4)

1. How can we name a Love  
that wakens heart and mind,  
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?  
Within our daily world,  
in every human face,  
Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the common place.

3. When people share a task,  
and strength and skills unite  
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,  
our Friend and Partner's will  
is better understood,  
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.

4. So in a hundred names,  
each day we all can meet  
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.  
Yet every name we see,  
shines in a brighter sun:  
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.

**How Can We Name A Love (Terra Beata)**

Brian Arthur Wren | Franklin Lawrence Sheppard

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**THANKSGIVING FOR LAY MINISTRIES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Leader:** Today, we gather to give thanks for the invaluable contributions of our lay ministers in teaching and learning within our church community. Through their dedication and love, they illuminate the path of faith for all who seek to grow closer to God.

As I name each group, I invite those involved to stand as we recognize and honor your vital roles:

**Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Volunteers:** Your unwavering commitment and nurturing spirit guide our children and youth in their early steps of faith. Week after week, you sow seeds of love and wisdom, shaping young hearts to embrace God's grace and truth.

**Sunday School Students and Nursery Kids:** Your laughter, curiosity, and eagerness to learn brighten our congregation. You remind us of the wonder and joy found in discovering God's Word together.

**Parents of Sunday School Students and Nursery Kids:** Your love and support for your children's spiritual growth create a foundation for their faith journeys. Through your prayers and encouragement, you inspire them to walk with God.

**Bible Study Participants:** Your dedication to exploring Scripture enriches our community with deeper insights and fellowship. Through thoughtful discussions and reflections, you strengthen our collective understanding of God's teachings.

**Confirmation Class Youth:** Your journey to affirm your faith inspires us all. Your diligence in learning and exploring God's promises gives us hope for the future of our church.

**Pastor:** Together, you form a vibrant and loving community of learners and teachers, nurturing a foundation of faith that glorifies God and enriches our fellowship. I am deeply grateful for each of you who serve, teach, learn, and grow in this ministry. You embody the joy and hope that our faith calls us to share.

May God's abundant blessings of love, peace, and joy be with each of you as you continue to grow and serve in His name.

**Congregation:** We give thanks for the dedication and love of our lay ministers in teaching and learning. Your efforts shape hearts, inspire minds, and strengthen our church family. May God continue to guide and bless you in all you do.

**Pastor:** Let us join in prayer, thanking God for the gift of these ministries and asking for His continued grace and wisdom as we journey together in faith.

**Together:** Thanks be to God. 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 - P.A.L.A.

### Great Is The Lord

Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. 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

**Faithful God, who calls us to follow and empowers us by your Spirit, we bring these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they be used to proclaim good news, set the oppressed free, and bring sight to the blind. Transform our offerings into acts of love and justice that reflect the mission of Jesus in this world. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

*(Luke 4:14-21)*

## SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (NRSV)

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to

the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

### *Response*

The Word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem – Chancel Choir**

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty | Arr. Douglas Wagner

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### **SERMON – Pastor Joy Oh**

*Transformation as One Body*

### **CLOSING HYMN #620 One Bread, One Body (v. 1, 2)**

#### *Refrain*

One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew,  
servant or free,  
woman or man, no more.

#### *Refrain*

2. Many the gifts,  
many the works,  
one in the Lord of all.

#### *Refrain*

**One Bread, One Body**

John B. Foley, S.J.

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**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE - Hani**

**Marche Triomphale**

Paul Wachs

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**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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