



First United Methodist Church of Torrance

Online Church in Worship

September 7, 2025

PRELUDE - Hani

I Will Lift Up My Eyes

Gary Davidson

Unknown

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

All: Wherever we go, God knows our name.

Leader: Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

All: Whatever we do, God knows our name.

Leader: However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you.

All: However we live, God knows our name.

Leader: We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

All: We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name!

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #61 *Come, Thou Almighty King* (v. 1, 2, 4)

1. Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise!
Father all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days!

2. Come, thou incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend!
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend!

4. To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be,
hence, evermore.
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore!

Come Thou Almighty King (Italian Hymn)

Felice de Giardini

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Holy God,
We confess that we do not always love our neighbor.
We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred.
We confess that we have been hurt by others.
We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times are just impossible for us.
We know that nothing is impossible in You.
We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us.
Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness.
For Your Son came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied, abused and put to death. He rose again and came with the message of peace to those who had denied him and abandoned him.
May we walk in his ways. Amen.**

(ASSURANCE OF PARDON)

Leader: For nothing is impossible with God.
There is no place you can go, no end of the earth you can run, where God cannot find you.
There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
You are forgiven. You are loved. You are reconciled to God.
Go and live with the love of God.

All: Amen.

(Written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution)

HOLY COMMUNION

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 #2152 TFWS *Change My Heart, O God*

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Change My Heart, O God

Eddie Espinosa

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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

He Leadeth Me

This is My Father's World

Joseph Gilmore | Arr. Greg Howlett

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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

Tender and knowing God, you have searched us and known us—every thought, every fear, every hope that stirs within. You wove us together with care, claiming us before we could speak your name. Receive these gifts, offered not from perfection but from hearts seeking you. Use them to shape a world more reflective of your love and shape us, too, into a people more open, more generous, more faithful. May our giving become a response to your knowing and our generosity a reflection of your grace. In the name of the one who knows us still. Amen.

(Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 16:13–20 (NRSV)

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Chancel Choir

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller | Jill Jackson | Arr. William Stickles

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SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee

Alive in Christ: Becoming a Real Church (1): A Church Rooted in Christ

CLOSING HYMN #545 The Church’s One Foundation (v. 1, 5)

1. The church’s one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her

to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

The Church's One Foundation (Aurelia)
Samuel John Stone | Samuel Sebastian Wesley
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

Carillon
Lani Smith
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