First United Methodist Church of Torrance
Online Church in Worship

August 23, 2026

PRELUDE - Hani

Come, Sweet Peace of God
Edward Broughton
© 2000 Lorenz Publishing Company
Used by Permission. ONE LICENSE # M-401420

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?
All: God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.
Leader: In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?
All: God shows us through the midwives' daring, Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.
Leader: In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?
All: God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.
Leader: Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?
All: We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #158 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

1. Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

3. Praise yet the Lord again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Christian Henry Bateman | Stan Pethel
Public Domain

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 - Marshall

I'll Be On My Way
Shawn Kirchner
© 2011 Shawn Kirchner Publishing
Used by Permission. shawnkirchner.com

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
Public Domain

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen.

(Exodus 1:8-2:10, Matthew 16:13-20)

SCRIPTURE Luke 17:20–21; Revelation 21:1–5 (NRSV)

Luke 17
20 Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; 21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

Revelation 21
1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Response
The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL ANTHEM - #246 *Joy to the World* (v. 1, 2, 4)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart
prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of
his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Joy to the World
George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts
Public Domain

SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee

Grace for the Weary (Week 8)
The Kingdom Is Coming; and Already Here

CLOSING HYMN #368 *My Hope Is Built* (v. 1, 4)

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!

Refrain

The Solid Rock
Edward Mote | William Batchelder Bradbury
Public Domain

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

Acclamation of Praise
Tom Birchwood
© 2000 Lorenz Publishing Company
Used by Permission. ONE LICENSE # M-401420

Online Giving

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

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from
- ONE LICENSE with license # A-401420, and from
- CCLI with license # CSPL052773.
The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV), © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission.

All rights reserved.