



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

January 4, 2026

PRELUDE - Hani

Andante Religiouso from Sonata No.4
F. Mendelssohn
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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

All: God, help us find your glory.

Leader: We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

All: God, help us find your glory.

Leader: We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

All: God, help us encounter your glory.

Leader: On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

All: God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #64 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty (v. 1, 2)

1. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our songs shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and
evermore shalt be.

Holy Holy Holy (Nicaea)

John Bacchus Dykes, Reginald Heber
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had.

Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering.

Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you.

Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others.

Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness.

Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

(Words of Assurance)

Leader: Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation who is with you now and forever! God will give you strength and restore your spirits.

All: AMEN.

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 #64 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty (v. 3, 4)

3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy;
there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in
love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name,
in earth and sky and seas.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons
blessed Trinity.

Holy Holy Holy (Nicaea)
John Bacchus Dykes, Reginald Heber
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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

In the Garden
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

Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Keep us faithful in our seeking, generous in our sharing, and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(Matthew 2:1-12)

SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:6; Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Chancel Choir

O, That I Had A Thousand Voices

Jay Althouse

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SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee

Becoming

CLOSING HYMN #558 *We Are the Church* (v. 1, 2, 3)

Refrain

I am the church!

You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

Refrain

2. We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too,
from all times and places.

Refrain

3. Sometimes the church is marching,
sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding,
always it's learning.

Refrain

I Am The Church

Donald Stuart Marsh | Richard Kinsey Avery
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

Psalm 19 (The Heavens Declare)
Benedetto Marcello
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Online Giving

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<https://firstumctorrance.org/giving/>.

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