



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance

## Online Church in Worship

January 11, 2026

### PRELUDE – Hani

#### Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Paul Manz

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### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come! Let us follow Jesus to the edge of the Jordan River to be baptized.

All: **We come to be cleansed and made whole.**

Leader: Come! Let us witness John's confusion and Jesus' insistence that John baptize God Incarnate.

All: **We come to join Jesus in choosing life in the kingdom of God.**

Leader: Come! Let us hear God declare the truth of Jesus' identity and the truth of our identity as baptized people.

All: **We come to remember and embody who we are as beloved children of God.**

Leader: Come! Let us worship God who leads us into the baptismal waters and salvation life.

All: **We come to worship God who empowers us through divine presence to live together as the family of God.**

*(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)*

### OPENING HYMN #110 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (v. 1, 2, 4)

1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side,  
the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his name,  
from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

4. That word above all earthly powers,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,  
thru him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever.

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**  
Frederick Henry Hedge | Martin Luther  
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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 - Josh

**Ave Maria**  
Franz Schubert  
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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 and Calling God, continue to draw us into community, into covenant, and into new life through waters of grace and acts of justice. Just as Jesus stepped into the river to stand with us and for us, we bring these gifts today to stand with others —to serve, to uplift, and to proclaim your kingdom. Use these offerings to fulfill your righteousness among us. Help us, your baptized people, to be instruments of healing, hope, and holy change in a world longing for good news. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*(Matthew 3:13-17)*

## SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 29:1–14 (NRSV)

1 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasar son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: 4 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

10 For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13 When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14 I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

*Response*

The Word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem - Chancel Choir**

**I'll Follow My Lord / Santo, Santo, Santo**

Alan Pote

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**SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee**

*Faithful People in Anxious Times:*

*We Are Still God's People*

**CLOSING HYMN #577 God of Grace and God of Glory (v. 1, 4)**

1. God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

4. Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

Harry Emerson Fosdick | John Hughes  
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## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE - Hani

Rondeau

Henry Purcell

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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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