First United Methodist Church of Torrance
Online Church in Worship

September 6, 2026

PRELUDE - Joshua

Morning Has Broken
BUNESSAN; Gaelic melody; Arr. Kathleen Henson
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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Family of God, we live in a world full of conflict and division.
All: God calls us to be a people of reconciliation.
Leader: We live in a world full of misinformation and confusion.
All: God calls us to be a people of truth and clarity.
Leader: We live in a world that wants to settle disputes with harmful words and actions.
All: God calls us to be a people who make peace through compassion and honesty.
Leader: We live in a world that does not understand the ways of Jesus.
All: Yet Jesus teaches us to be a people of reconciliation and peace for the good of the whole world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #618 *Let Us Break Bread Together* (v. 1-3)

1. Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

3. Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let Us Break Bread Together
William Farley Smith
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

(Silent confession)

All: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.
We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.
We judge and condemn.
We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.
Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

(Assurance of Forgiveness)

Leader: Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace - in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.

(Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good")

HOLY COMMUNION The United Methodist Hymnal (page 15)

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 #413 *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

Let There Be Peace On Earth
Jill Jackson | Sy Miller
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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 - Joshua

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
Matt Redman
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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
Public Domain

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Reconciling God, you mark our lives not with fear, but with mercy, and you gather us into a people shaped by grace. As you delivered your children at Passover and taught your church to seek peace with one another, teach us to live in our "church clothes" every day—clothed in patience, truth, and love. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your saving power and our commitment to your work of healing and restoration. Use what we offer to mend what is broken, welcome those who feel outside, and build a community where forgiveness and hope have the final word. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen. (Exodus 12:1-14, Matthew 18:15-20)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 16:21–28 (NRSV)

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem
and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes,
and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to
rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he
turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for
you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny
themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their
life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it
profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in
return for their life?

27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then
he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some
standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his
kingdom."

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

Anthem - Chancel Choir

Come to the Table of the Lord
Sally K. Albrecht | Jay Althouse
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SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee

Grace for the Weary (Final Message, Second Attempt)
Grace for the Road Ahead

CLOSING HYMN #2130 TFWS *The Summons* (v. 1, 4, 5)

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let My love be shown,
will you let My name be known,
will you let My life be grown
in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through My sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when You but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go
where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

The Summons (Kelvingrove)
John L. Bell
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Joshua

"Wedding Suite" Canon in D, Gathered in the Love of Christ
Johann Pachelbel | Marty Haugen | Arr. Paul A. Tate
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Online Giving

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