



First United Methodist Church of Torrance

Online Church in Worship

September 13, 2026

PRELUDE - Hani

Be Lifted Up

Ross Anderson

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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

All: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

Leader: The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

All: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

Leader: We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

All: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

Leader: In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

All: God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #127 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* (v. 1, 3)

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven,
bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises,
songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah (Cwm Rhondda)
John Hughes | Peter Williams | William Williams
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BLESSING OF PRAYER QUILT

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 - Phoebe

Canon in D
Johann Pachelbel
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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

Reconciling God, you mark our lives not with fear, but with mercy, and you gather us into a people shaped by grace. As Merciful Deliverer, you part the waters when we feel trapped and forgive debts too great to repay. In the face of fear and brokenness, you lead us with compassion and grace. May the gifts we bring today reflect our deep gratitude for your mercy. Let them support ministries of reconciliation and acts of healing, justice, and welcome. Teach us to lead not with judgment, but with generosity, recognizing that what we have, we hold by your mercy. Bless these offerings and bless us as stewards of your kin-dom, always seeking to build a world where grace is not rare but abundant. Amen.

(Matthew 18:21-35)

SCRIPTURE Exodus 14:19–31 (NRSV)

19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. 20 It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. 22 The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. 24 At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. 25 He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." 27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. 29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Response

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Chancel Choir**Walking In Faith With Our Lord**

Nancy Price | Arr. Don Besig

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SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee

Trusting God In Reality

CLOSING HYMN # *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* (v. 1, 3)

1. What a fellowship,
what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness,
what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

3. What have I to dread,
what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace
with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain***Leaning On The Everlasting Arms**

Anthony Johnson Showalter | Elisha Albright Hoffman
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

Allegro assai from “Drottningholmsmusiken”

Johan H. Roman

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