



First United Methodist Church of Torrance

Online Church in Worship

September 20, 2026

PRELUDE - Hani

I Will Lift Up My Eyes

Arr. Gary Davidson

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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides...

All: We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Leader: In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision and abundance deep in our bones...

All: We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Leader: In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together....

All: We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Leader: Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to press on...

All: As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN # Title

1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O Jesus, I Have Promised
John E Bode | Arthur H Mann
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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 – REv. Jacob and Marshall

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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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

Steadfast God, for us to live is Christ. In every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your kin-dom. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, strengthen your church, and bear witness that love is stronger than fear. Shape our common life to be worthy of the gospel, until our unity itself proclaims your grace. Amen.

(Philippians 1:21-30)

SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:21-30 (NRSV)

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Chancel Choir

Here I Am Lord

Daniel Schutte | Arr. Mark Hayes

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SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee

Live a Life Worthy of the Gospel

CLOSING HYMN #2129 FWS *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (v. 1-3, 1)*

1. I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus
no turning back,
no turning back.

2. The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me
no turning back,
no turning back.

3. Though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow
no turning back,
no turning back.

1. I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus
no turning back,
no turning back.

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

Anonymous

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

Christ, Our Strength and Consolation

Edward Broughton

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Online Giving

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