



Riverside Congregational
Church

November 21, 2021

Call to Worship

One: Christ is waiting here for us.

Many: To welcome us.

One: To show you the path of life.

Many: To love us.

One: To hear our prayers.

Many: To be present with us always.

One: Come and worship.

Many: We are here to praise the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Creating God, we give you thanks for this day, for the breath of life in our bodies, and for the ability to gather here as your faithful followers. During this time, may our prayers be honest and heart-felt. May we support and encourage one another. May our words be kind and compassionate. May we be inspired by your Holy Spirit to do good deeds, and to love without question or boundaries. And may we glorify you with our whole being. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen!

“How Can I Keep from Singing?” (#424)

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?



“How Can I Keep from Singing?” (#424)

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?



“How Can I Keep from Singing?” (#424)

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?



Prayer of Confession

Eternal One,

You who rule over all of us with justice and care,

We your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to your rule,

That we do not always participate in your reign of equity and integrity,

That we have not followed the example you set forth.

Instead we often place our trust in leaders who let us down,

And in our own flawed leadership of others.

Lead us, Christ our Sovereign,

And set us on the path to righteous rule in all that we do. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Salvation belongs to you, O God. Forgive us our sin. Renew us, refresh us and help us rebuild our lives so that they are reflections of your love for all people. We pray in the name of the Almighty One. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Christ offers peace to all who will accept it. Share the love of God and encourage one another with hope as you greet one another in faith:

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Many And also with you!

John 18:33-37 (The Message)

Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, “Are you the ‘King of the Jews’?”

Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?”

Pilate said, “Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?”

“My kingdom,” said Jesus “doesn’t consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. But I’m not that kind of king, not the world’s kind of king.”

John 18:33-37 (The Message)

Then Pilate said, “So, are you a king or not?”

Jesus answered, “You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice.”



Sermon:
“The Great Cloud of
Witnesses”
Rev. Bob Nolan

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (#344)

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

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.



“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” (#344)

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.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.





Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory;

Forever and ever. Amen!

Call To Offering

Today, O Lord, we offer you our sacrifice of time, energy, and love, knowing full well they are mere tokens of the awesome faith you inspire within us.

Accept these gifts, that they may continue the good work in Christ — in our church, in our community, and in the world.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

“Give Thanks” (#359)

Give thanks, with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son
And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”
let the poor say, “I am rich,”
because of what the Lord had done for us
Give thanks!



“Amazing Grace” (#422)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!



“Amazing Grace” (#422)

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

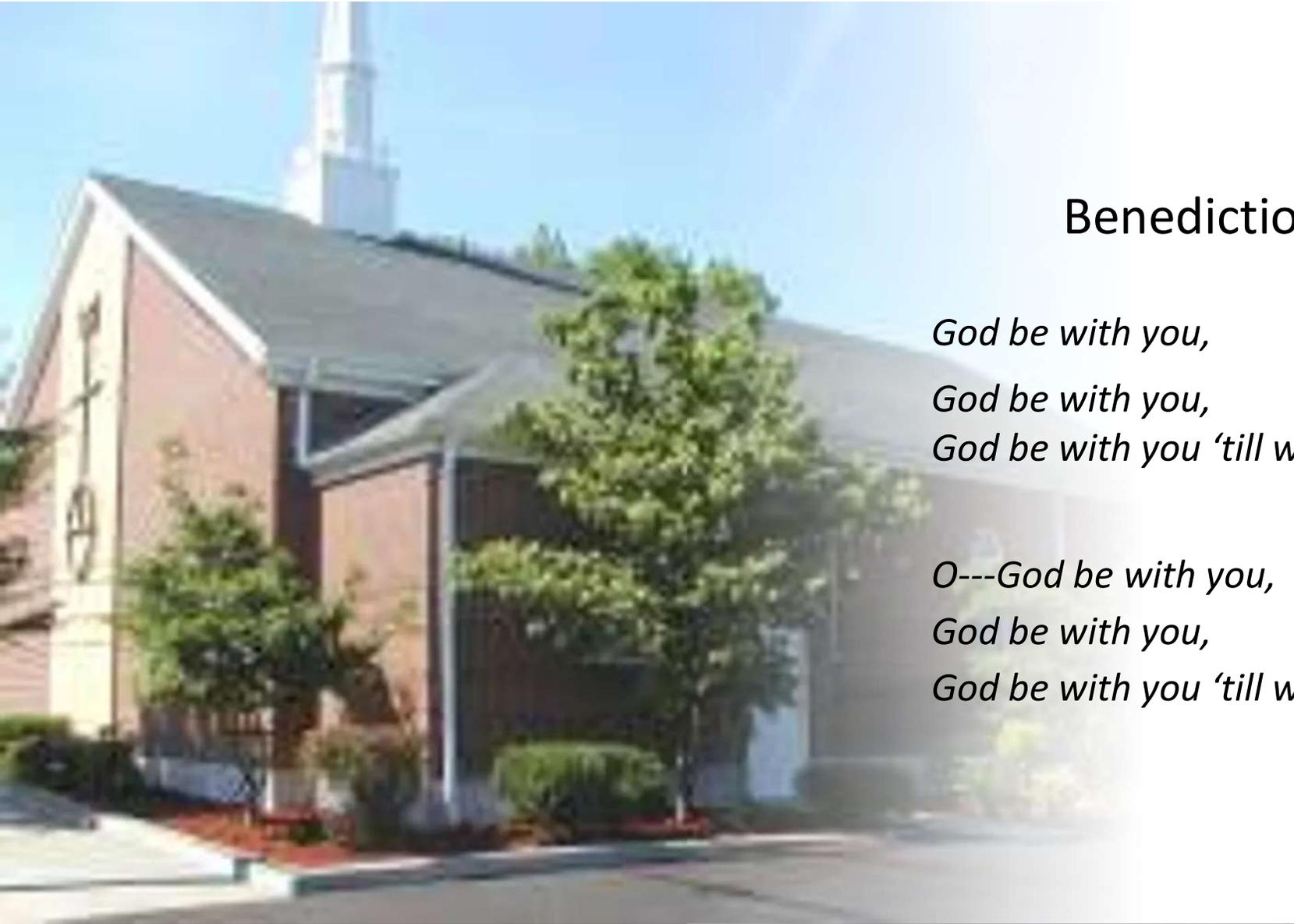
Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.



“Amazing Grace” (#422)

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.





Benediction

God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again

O---God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again