



Riverside Congregational Church

October 24, 2021

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Call to Worship

(Jeremiah 31: 7-9)

One: Sing aloud with gladness:

Many: God is gathering the people!

One: From the farthest parts of the earth, we come:

Many: All who struggle; all who labor with new life!

One: Those who are weeping, God will console;

Many: Those who get lost find a clear path home.

Prayer of Invocation

Ever-calling God,

We give thanks that you have gathered us into your church and graced us with your faithful presence. We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church.

Grant us the vision to be a part of this new moment in your Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world.

Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus' vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. Amen!

“Come, Celebrate the Call of God” (#584)

Come celebrate the call of God that wakens and renews,
and chooses from us, for our good, the bringers of good news.
The Spirit's blessing all ordains to show what God has done,
Yet brings to focus and contains the many in the one.



“Come, Celebrate the Call of God” (#584)

A chosen one today replies, and fit and ready stands.
The calling now we recognize with prayer and loving hands.
A servant leader, truthful friend, we gladly will receive,
To stir and comfort, shake and mend, be glad about us, and
grieve..



“Come, Celebrate the Call of God” (#584)

Great Spirit give the word and breath in Christ to live and speak,
And shield against the powers of death the outcast and the
weak,
the flag of faith, above defeats, in heaven's breeze unfurled,
as all the deepest gladness meets the under of the world.



Prayer of Confession

One: When we want to be a church open to your transforming love, yet cling to comfortable ways:

Many: Jesus, Heir of David, have mercy on us!

One: When we want to honor your “still speaking voice”, but are fearful of insights which challenge old assumptions:

Many Jesus, Heir of David, have mercy on us!

One: When we want to live into Jesus’ dream of oneness, but fail to listen to voices of difference:

Many: Jesus, Heir of David, have mercy on us!

Assurance of Pardon

Take heart, get up; Jesus is calling to us! We trust in the one who has guided the church for two millennia. Through Christ, God forgives us our failings, and continues to call us into a community of mutual love and forgiveness. **Amen!**



Baptism

Passing the Peace

One: Let us celebrate this mercy of God by greeting each other with a sign of Christ's peace. May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Many: And also with you!

Mark 10:46-52

The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



Sermon:

“Persistence, Faith &
Gratitude”

Rev. Bob Nolan

“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come” (#638)

O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored,
when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.



“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come” (#638)

In conflicts that destroy our health,
we diagnose the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills:
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.





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

Our ancestors in faith and church-building show us the way to share the gifts God has given us with the whole community.

Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God with heartfelt gratitude, commitment and praise.

“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 (repeat)

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 (repeat)

Give thanks!



Dedication

Transform our lives, O God, and let these gifts change the world into which we send them. Take them and multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love!

“Because He Lives” (#447)

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.



“Because He Lives” (#447)

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives.
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.



“Because He Lives” (#447)

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone!
Because I know He holds the future
and life is worth the living just because He lives!





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