



First United Methodist Church of Hanford
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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“It is only God who can fill our deepest longings”

“But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.”
Luke 5:16 (NRSV)

Fatigue is cured by sleeping and hunger is cured by eating, but how do we handle loneliness? Especially right now when we have been away from loved ones and friends for so long, because coronavirus. It is our very nature to seek out others, to want a heart that responds to our human ache for understanding.

Throughout his life Jesus experienced both isolation and alienation. At one time, when the crowds drifted away, he asked his disciples, "Will you also go away?" Yet, there were times when Jesus chose to be alone, deliberately making himself unavailable so that he could nourish his soul as he talked with God. He always made time to leave the crowds to talk with and listen to his Father.

But, even Jesus did not use his relationship with God as a substitute for human companionship. He found this companionship with his three closest disciples - Peter, James and John - and in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

We know that even the best marriage, the closest friendship, the most satisfying child-parent relationship - they can all be unpredictable. More than 1500 years ago St. Augustine said: "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." He remarked that our hearts will never be at rest away from the One who made them...and it is still true.

The ONE, who created us, knows the best way to fill our empty places. It is only God who can fill our deepest longings, who never has an appointment somewhere else, who never replaces us

with someone He likes better. It is our God who promises never to leave us totally alone. Even in the middle of this Isolation, when we have to stay at home and away from others, He is always with us. He is the only One who wants to be and always will be the unfailing companion on our journey.

Let us pray: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for always being there for us and for never leaving us alone. Help us to always be aware of your presence with us. Amen.

“Now I can say I Live a Day” (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

October 14th, 2020

Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>