



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



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Sunday, October 11th 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we come into your presence with thanksgiving, to praise your holy name. We lift your name on high and proclaim your greatness. We give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His love endures for ever.

Hymn: "There's a quiet understanding"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqJ-JY3-nfU>

There's a quiet understanding
when we're gathered in the Spirit,
it's a promise that he gives us,
when we gather in his name.
There's a love we feel in Jesus,
there's a manna that he feeds us,
it's a promise that he gives us,
when we gather in his name.

And we know when we're together,
sharing love and understanding,
that our brothers and our sisters
feel the oneness that he brings.
Thank you, thank you, thank you, Jesus,
for the way you love and feed us,
for the many ways you lead us;
thank you, thank you, Lord;
thank you, thank you, Lord.

Tedd Smith (b. 1927)

Let us pray together

God, creator of the world and universe, look down upon us as we gather in your name. Although we may be worshipping in different places we pray that we shall be strengthened through your Word and the unity we have in Jesus Christ. We are not alone in our worship and add our praises to all who meet in the name of Jesus today. Creation speaks of your love and we are blessed with many gifts. Sadly, we have abused those gifts and have not always acted in ways that are pleasing to you. Have mercy upon us O' Lord, and show us how we can make your world a better place in which to live. May your blessing be with us today and every day; for we ask this in Jesus' name.

Today's New Testament Reading:

James 3: 1-12

James is right. The tongue is like a flame that can start a fire. But just as it can start a fire of destruction it can also be used by God to encourage the flames of the Holy Spirit. We, who say aloud, "I am a Christian," had better choose our words carefully. When we speak we will start fires. We need to be sure they are fires of God's Spirit.

Choose your words carefully. Words cannot be “taken back,” so we should be very careful with what we say.

We need to recognize that today we live in a crisis where words are used to hurt people, words that confuse people, words that are lies, and words to defend systematic racism, words to ignore a pandemic and put at risk the lives of many people, words that divide us, words that are looking for your own interest and not the common good.

Take the time to think about what you say. See if your words truly reflect the truth of God. Don't expect others to come to your aid, and clean up your mess.

But most of all, use your words to proclaim the hope and love of God. Speak life and hope to those who cross your path. Bring comfort and healing to those in need and always be mindful that you are a reflection of Jesus Christ.

May God in his grace bridle our tongues with the fire of His Holy and sanctifying Spirit so that when we open our lips, our mouths shall only show forth His praise. Amen.

Time to Reflect

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

God of love and compassion; we lay our broken world at your feet. Our world continues to be torn apart by fear and hate and people are oppressed by those who seek power for themselves with little thought for the needs of others.

We think for our communities, many of which are fragmented and divided. Diversity can bring richness and strength

to our communities, but can be used to promote fear and hatred. Show us how old pains and wounds can be used to bring new life and hope.

We think of those whose lives have been broken, through sorrow and grief, illness, and fractured relationships. Life may seem to have lost its purpose. May the gift of your healing grace bring a new sense of purpose and love.

On this Sunday we recognize the need for justice, that may we act with compassion and mercy, remembering how God deals with us.

We draw our prayers of intercession to a close by saying aloud or in our mind these words:

Almighty God, give us hearts of compassion so that we can bless those whom we meet. Help us to bring peace and comfort to those who are in distress. May your Spirit give us life and strength and show us how we can share God's love, joy and peace and be true servants of Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: "Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow"

Sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

What gift of love could I offer to a King
What weight or worth could be held
within my offering
When He alone is worthy

A glory song is inscribed upon my heart
This treasure held in an alabaster jar I
break To bring Him all the glory

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below

What sacrifice could be equal to His own
The cross of Christ has declared that there
is nought I owe Yet I know I owe Him all

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Our Father God the infinite
The matchless King magnificent

The living Christ The servant Son
The prophesied The saving One

The Holy Ghost gift from above
The faithful Friend The seal of love

This life, this heart This song to Him
My all in all My everything

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

A prayer of blessing

May your grace, love and peace, inspire
and strengthen us now, and in the days to
come. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen.

Based on Liturgy by John Roughley
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere
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**If you have a praise or concern you would
like lifted in prayer this week, please
submit it to us in any of this ways:**

EMAIL:

office@fumchanford.org
pastorpablo@fumchanford.org

PHONE: Leave message

(559) 584 4075 Epistle Reading

James 3: 1-12 (Common English Bible)

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies. Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly. Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell. People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness.¹⁰ Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way! Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.