



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



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**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 2020**

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use. 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

'Lord, we come into your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance' May the light of your presence guide our worship today. Amen .

### Hymn: Be Thou my Vision

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpSqAclrDI>

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;

Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish, 8th century  
translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935) (alt.)*

Let us pray together

### Prayer of Praise and Invocation

Lord Jesus, Light of the World; you came to turn our world upside down, or rather the right way up. Word of God made flesh, you came to show us how to truly live, to love and to serve; how to live out the values of your kingdom here on earth. As we gather to praise you for all that you are and all that you bring, we pray; 'mirrored here, may our lives tell your story' today and every day. Amen.

### Prayer of Confession

Lord we acknowledge that there have been times when we have not shared the riches of your kingdom with others.

Times when we have taken the easy route, choosing options that require less time, less energy, less thought. Times when we have turned back to the ways of the world that are contrary to the values of your kingdom.  
And in a moment of quiet we bring into your light our own personal confessions.

Lord, we remember you are a God of mercy and grace, who forgives us and transforms us, by the power of your Spirit, into the people you have truly made us to be. Amen.

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25: 14-30

### Time to Reflect

*How we treat all people, how we live our lives on a daily basis, amidst the challenges and competing values of the world, matters.*

*This parable is told two days before the Passover festival in what we now call Holy Week, where the story reaches its climax and Jesus himself brings about peace, not through violence but through the way of the cross.*

*Jesus, first is offering a challenge to his own day, a time where he is forcing a final confrontation between God's kingdom and the system that had resisted it. The third slave could be seen as representing the Pharisees, who had been given the Law of Moses, the Temple, and the command to share God's blessing and yet had kept the light to themselves. The other slaves can be seen as those who take the good news of God's kingdom they have been entrusted with, share it and act to help it grow.*

### To consider

*What do we do with the news of God's kingdom that has been entrusted to us?*

*How do we live each day in light of this news?*

*How can we encourage one another and build ourselves up in our faith?*

### Take a time to sit quietly

#### A time of prayer

We pray for places where people face persecution for their faith and are not free to worship you, and for people who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus;  
**Lord, help us shine your light and share our faith.**

We pray for those who fear for the future, those facing job uncertainty or loss, those anxious about the continued impact of the Covid pandemic;  
**Lord, help us shine your light and share your hope.**

We pray for those who are ill, those facing loneliness, isolation and separation from loved ones;  
**Lord, help us shine your light and share your love.**

In a moment of quiet we bring before you our personal prayers.

Lord, we remember 'the light of your love is always shining' as we offer you these prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father .....*

### Hymn: Hear the Call of the Kingdom

<https://youtu.be/d5AkyRFIKaM>

Hear the call of the kingdom,  
lift your eyes to the King;  
let his song rise within you  
as a fragrant offering  
of how God, rich in mercy,  
came in Christ to redeem  
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to be children of light  
with the mercy of heaven,  
the humility of Christ;  
walking justly before him,  
loving all that is right,  
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call.  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to reach out to the lost  
with the Father's compassion  
in the wonder of the cross,  
bringing peace and forgiveness,  
and a hope yet to come:  
let the nations put their trust in him.  
King of heaven, we will answer the call ...

*Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

### A prayer of blessing

As we are sent out to live as children of light; May we walk in faith, be sustained by hope, and share the all-embracing love of God with everyone we meet.  
Amen.

Based on Liturgy by Rachel Atkinson  
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere  
Hymns reproduced under CCLI 657359



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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](mailto:office@fumchanford.org)

[pastorpablo@fumchanford.org](mailto:pastorpablo@fumchanford.org)

**PHONE: Leave message**

**(559) 584 4075** Epistle Reading

master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**Matthew 25: 14-30**

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your