



505 N. Redington Street Hanford, CA93230  
 559-584-4075 (voice) 559-584-5438 (fax)  
 office@fumchanford.org www.fumchanford.org

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

To You we rise, in You we rest  
 We stay at home, we go on quest,  
 Still You are our abode.

**Hymn:** "Here I am to Worship"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfJSOpCDgUw>

Light of the world  
 You stepped down into darkness  
 Opened my eyes, let me see  
 Beauty that made this heart adore You  
 Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship  
 Here I am to bow down  
 Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely  
 Altogether worthy  
 Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days  
 Oh so highly exalted  
 Glorious in heaven above  
 Humbly You came to the earth You  
 created  
 All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship  
 Here I am to bow down  
 Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely  
 Altogether worthy  
 Altogether wonderful to me

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
 To see my sin upon that cross

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
 To see my sin upon that cross

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
 To see my sin upon that cross

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
 To see my sin upon that cross

Source: [LyricFind](#)  
 Songwriters: Tim Hughes

**Prayer of Approach**

Heart-stirring God, You know each of us by name and day by day we discover your favor afresh. Your love is new every morning. Your Presence remains with us, whether we are called to travel or need to stay put. You are our rest-giver and the source of our peace. We marvel that you choose to be gracious to us. We are touched and humbled by the mercy You extend. We ask You to stir our hearts and teach us Your ways so that we who belong to You may know more of You. Show us Your glory. Open our eyes to it, stretching in beauty over the face of the earth,

shining in the face of Christ Jesus and smiling in the faces of every life lighted by Your Spirit, so that we and all Your people may give You glory and worship You in Spirit and in Truth. **Amen** (prayer inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)

### **Prayer of Confession**

(You can begin this prayer with your hands held shut)

Giving and forgiving God, You are rich in mercy and generous to all.

Help us to see clearly the priorities, prejudices and anxieties in our lives.

Help us to face honestly the injustice, greed and exploitation of the society in which we live.

Forgive us when our concerns have been limited and we have behaved as if our lives and resources were ours to use as we wished.

Forgive us when we have failed to let Your big-heartedness open our hearts and hands.

(Open your hands)

Merciful God, give us the grace and courage to open our hearts and hands.

Shape our lives and use us for we belong to You.

**Amen**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Receive the riches of God's mercy and grace.

Know beyond any doubt that You are loved and forgiven in Jesus

### **Today's Gospel Reading**

Matthew 22: 15-22

### **Time to Reflect**

The Gospel passage gives us the feeling of 'coming in in the middle', as if we had walked into a room in the middle of a conversation or turned on a television or radio in the middle of a drama. Whether it was right to pay taxes to the Romans was a long-running debate on which many took entrenched positions. It is a clever and dangerous 'trick question' because a direct answer lays Jesus open to charges of collaboration or revolution.

Matthew shows us Jesus taking and holding the coin, perhaps turning it over in His hand, studying the image of the Emperor, reading the imperial titles with their grandiose claims. In the hands of Jesus, a new perspective emerges and tense political and ethical question is seen in a new light. The principle is the priority of God, the need to render God what is due. The question of 'what is owed' to Caesar is addressed to the questioners. What new perspectives on entrenched issues and problems might Jesus open for us when we turn them over and put them in His hands?

### **Take a time to sit quietly**

Think of Jesus giving attention to a tricky situation where you do not know how to speak or act for the best. Pray that as you put this into Jesus's hands you will receive a renewed perspective.

In the 'messy middle' what would it mean to embark on a scavenger hunt for signs of God's Presence? Give thanks for someone in whose life you see God at work. Is there a way you could encourage them by letting them know?

### **A time of prayer**

Patient God Help us to remember that we can't find the words, You listen to our hearts

and Your Spirit pleads for us in sighs too deep to be spoken.

Lover of Justice, we hold before You the peoples of the world. Establish equity and grant wisdom.

Strong God, we hold before You the church through the world and our own churches. Strengthen hearts and renew vision.

Merciful one, we hold before You those we know in need. Reach out with healing and restoration, encircle in comfort and care.

Listening God, refresh our sense of Your Presence and strengthen and guide us day by day, until with all Your beloved people we see You face to face in Your Kingdom.

**Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn: "Let Love be real"**

<https://youtu.be/SkBAXZw5NxU>

(Matt Beckingham) **or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
without the need to manage and to own;  
a haven free from posing and pretending,  
where every weakness may be safely known.

Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,  
give me your love wherever we may go.

*As God loves us, so let us love each other:  
with no demands, just open hands and  
space to grow.*

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,

that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;

that helps us face the risk of truly living,  
and makes us brave to be what we might be.

Give me your strength when all my words are weakness;

give me your love in spite of all you know.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,  
no secret wish to harness or control;  
let us accept each other's incompleteness,  
and share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments;

give me your trust when all my failings show.

*Michael Forster (b. 1946)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

May God our Father inspire and strengthen us in our work of faith

May Christ Jesus our brother motivate and sustain us in our labour of love

May the Spirit our helper establish and build in us a steadfast hope.

That our living may be a reason for thanksgiving and bring Glory to God.

Amen.

Based on Liturgy by Miriam Stevenson  
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere  
Hymns reproduced under CCLI 657359



Please mail gifts to First UMC of Hanford,  
505 N. Redington St, Hanford, CA 93230

**Give online at:**

<https://onrealm.org/fumchanford/-/give/now>

**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

### Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.