



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



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

## Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use while we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. 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.

### Call to worship from Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of  
our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with  
thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with  
songs of praise!

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

The Lord is here: His Spirit is with us

### Hymn: "Shout to the Lord"

*Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or  
listen to it here*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn5CMSSAx\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn5CMSSAx_c)

My Jesus, my Savior  
Lord there is none like You  
All of my days I want to praise  
The wonders of Your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter  
Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, all that I am  
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have  
In You

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Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have  
Oh nothing compares to the promise I have  
Nothing compares to the promise I have  
In You

Songwriters: Darlene Joyce Zschech

### Let us pray together

Creator God, we gather in the knowledge  
and vision of your love.

In the Risen Christ, Jesus' disciples were  
filled with new hope and they saw that  
you called them to speak your message of  
renewal, commitment, forgiveness and  
freedom. We thank you that you have  
called us to share that hope, even in the  
uncertainty that we often feel.

You dwell with us, your love enfolds us  
and we find peace in your presence.

We thank you that Jesus brings new  
insights into the world and that through  
his life, death and resurrection you  
continue to speak with us today. Jesus  
reached out his hands in healing, in  
friendship and in blessing; may we do the  
same in his name today.

We thank you that you continue to reach  
out into the life of the world; that in our  
deepest uncertainty you bring the  
certainty of your love; in the place of  
deepest darkness you bring your light and  
into our lives you bring your forgiveness.

Creator God, we pray that you continue to  
inform our compassion, be our vision and  
bring light, hope and peace to us and to all  
the world.

Amen

### Today's Reading from the New

Testament Romans 8: 12 - 25

### Today's Gospel Reading:

Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 – 43

Children's Worship for July 19:

Persevering in doing good

<https://youtu.be/OX2bTvdhX5I>

### Time to Reflect

In today's Gospel reading Jesus gives us  
one of the parables of the Kingdom which  
tells us about the way that plants grow.  
Here both the good crop and the weeds  
which are planted later begin to grow; as  
they grow, they merge together.

Jesus knew about the impact of good and  
evil which was to find its full force as he  
walked the way of the cross. He knew  
about human nature. He knew that  
goodness, truth and justice are in the  
world but oppression, injustice and  
conflict are there also. Just like the plant  
and the weeds which grow together in  
this parable, so the complexity of human  
experience both good and bad exist  
alongside one another.

The crop and the weeds grow together as  
do good and evil and so does opportunity  
and oppression, hope and despair, light  
and darkness. It is only when the harvest  
is brought in that the weeds and the crop  
can be separated. Here is a parable of the  
end times, but it was also a parable of the  
hope of the Kingdom which means that  
forgiveness is always offered and when  
accepted has a transformational impact  
on the way that life can be lived and hope  
is shared.

What though might this mean for us today? We live in an imperfect world, where human beings do the best of things and the worst of things. Jesus knew that, finding the best when he took the smallest offering of 5 loaves and 2 fish which fed the crowd of well over 5000 people and yet finding the worst in a crowd crying, 'Crucify'.

Jesus shows us, there is hope for all in what God has done and in what God is doing. May that hope be seen in our response to the world as we discover and share God's love which continues to bring light into the darkness of our mixed up, imperfect world.

- The parable tells us that the weeds and the good crop grow together; can good and evil ever be untangled in this world? What challenge does this present to our living as God's faithful people in the world today?

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

We pray for the world around us; for the environment; for peace where there is conflict; for racial and social justice to be seen throughout the world.

We pray for our communities; for those who are shielding; for those who are fearful, for those working for the good of others in many different ways in our community. We pray for all who work in the NHS and for all key workers and those on whom we rely. We pray for our church community as we seek new ways of fulfilling our calling as the Church in these times. We pray for our families, friends, and neighbors. We pray for those who are ill and for those who are

struggling financially or emotionally at this time. We pray for those who are grieving as we remember those who have died.

In the stillness we take a moment we bring our prayers to God...

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

*Our Father .....*

***Hymn: Listen to "Hymn of promise"***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RHeK8k5WoY>

**or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**

### **A prayer of blessing**

The blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon us, now and always. Amen.

Based on Liturgy by Rev Philip Wagstaff  
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Rovere

### **Ways to give to support your church:**

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

### **Give online at:**

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

### **Matthew 13:24-30, 36- 43 (NIV)**

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.