



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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Sunday 21st June 2020

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

Opening Prayer

God of all, we come to you just as we are – happy, sad, busy, bored, lonely, or fed up with people. We thank you that you welcome us just as we are and are always with us, even when we don't realise. We come to worship you and praise you, faithful God.

Hymn: 397 I need thee every hour

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B9HbPskX5c>

I need thee every hour,
 most gracious Lord;
 no tender voice like thine
 can peace afford:
 I need thee, O I need thee,
 every hour I need thee;
 O bless me now, my Saviour;
 I come to thee.

I need thee every hour;
 stay thou near by;
 temptations lose their power
 when thou art nigh:

I need thee every hour,
 in joy or pain;
 come quickly and abide,
 or life is vain:

I need thee every hour;
 teach me thy will,
 and thy rich promises
 in me fulfil:

Annie S. Hawks (1835-1918)

We pray together

Beautiful God, we praise and worship you – your loving kindness and mercy is without end. Your faithfulness to us is unending. We praise you for your eternal love.

We recognize before you, and thank you, for where your image is clear in us – where we radiate you in the way that we live. We recognize too where we ruin that image – with selfishness, unkindness, a lack of love.

We say sorry in a moment of quiet and ask your forgiveness.

We thank you that you say to us each, 'my child your sins are forgiven, go in peace and sin no more'.

We thank you that you give us your Spirit to help us know you and be closer to you. We thank you that when we come to you, you don't wait for us to be clever enough,

good enough, or perfect enough – but you accept us as we are in complete Love. We thank you for people who have shown us what your love is like, remembering with thanks those who have died who have shown us what your love is like. We bring our prayers in Jesus name. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 10: 24-31.

Time to Reflect

The idea of the value of each person is a natural fiber throughout the Bible. And it's why we as followers of Jesus are obligated not to be indifferent to the fate or condition of any other person on Earth.

That person is one of God's children, is made in God's image, is our sister or brother and is precious in God's sight.

What would it look like if we took Jesus seriously about loving people because God believes they are of infinite value? Wouldn't we listen to people better than some of us do now?

And, is not listening to people a sign of respect? And, is not respecting someone a way of loving them?

If Jesus prepared his disciples by teaching them that God prizes every person, shouldn't we take that idea seriously?

Jesus took it seriously. He didn't worry about church.

He worried about people whom God valued more than many sparrows.

May we do the same. Amen.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer – please make your own prayers for specific people, places and situations in the spaces.

Eternal God, we come to pray as your co-workers and co-cares in your world. We know you already care and are already there in the places and with the people for whom we pray.

In a moment of silence we pray for people suffering, in pain, depression or anxiety. We pray for all those who work to alleviate suffering.

We pray for communities struggling in poverty, overcrowding and hunger, for people feeling disconnected and for those who are working together to bring comfort, food and help.

We pray for governments and those in power around the world, for wisdom and the desire to put the wellbeing of their people first and to work together with other in peace.

We bring all our prayers, in trust and confidence, in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Blessed be your name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du0il6d-DAk>

Blessed be your name
in the land that is plentiful,
where your streams of abundance flow,
blessed be your name.
And blessed be your name
when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness,
blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out

I'll turn back to praise.
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:

*Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your glorious name.*

Blessed be your name
when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's 'all as it should be,'
blessed be your name.
And blessed be your name
on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out
I'll turn back to praise.
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord ...

You give and take away,
you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
'Lord, blessed be your name.'

Blessed be the name of the Lord ...

Matt Redman (b. 1974) and Beth Redman

A prayer of blessing

May Immanuel God be with us, bless us
with the deep heart-knowledge that God
is with us, and as we share the reality of
ourselves with God, may we know
ourselves held and beloved. Amen

Based on Liturgy by Ruth Yorke
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 10:24-31 (NIV)

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.