



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



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Sunday, August 23rd 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 God, We come as living sacrifices, to offer You our worship and thanksgiving, our praise and our prayers. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds so that we may recognize Your presence, hear Your voice, know Your will, and walk in Your way. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

into a new day, that you call each of us by our name, that we belong to you. And gathered or scattered, you hold us together in love. Generous and merciful God, the only way to come to you each day is in truth, for you know us completely and love us as we are. Shine your gentle light on us so that we can know ourselves to be real, honest and forgiven. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus, name above all names"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxMmj7pdIjM>
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words:

Jesus, name above all names. Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word. Jesus, Lord God almighty, Wonderful Counselor, Light of the world, the Prince of Peace, Hope of Glory, Man of Sorrow, Lamb of God.

Let us pray together

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mindful, compassionate, constant, thank you for loving us through every season of our lives. May we believe that you call us

Today's Gospel Reading:

Matthew 16: 13-20

Time to Reflect

When Peter says, "you are the Messiah, the son of the living God," Peter is agreeing to no less than this – that the true Messiah comes not to conquer and vanquish and beat others into submission, *even* the hated Romans. Jesus, the Messiah, the anointed one, comes to serve, to heal, to love, and to give his life for others. When Peter says Jesus is the Messiah, he's not just saying Jesus is in charge. He's embracing the whole kit, the whole message. No wonder Jesus reacts with such words of affirmation for Peter. With passage after

passage of the disciples missing the point, like we do, they finally seem to get it!

Do we? I think we don't have any trouble claiming Jesus as our Messiah. But I wonder exactly what we mean by it. What do we *mean* when we say Jesus is Christ? We have to ask ourselves not just what *words* we say about Jesus as Messiah, but we must also ask ourselves what our *lives* say about Jesus being messiah. "Who do you say he is?," Not just say when repeating the Creed, but say with your lives; that is, with your relationships, your bank account, your time, your energy, and all the rest. Who do you really say Jesus is?"

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Holy and gracious God, we pray for others, prayers that bring to mind the world's realities. Please teach us not to be afraid, because it is here we find you, sharing this deeply troubled world with us. Please bless all who are continuing to make a difference: scientists working faster than ever before to find cure or vaccine for covid-19; chefs, volunteers, neighbours and countless more. We ask you to bless all who are there to care for those who are at their lowest, especially in health and care services. **May they know your persevering strength.**

We pray for the hundreds of thousands who are grieving here and across the world: for the loss of loved ones, loss of livelihood, loss of confidence and hope, loss of any sense of wellbeing. **May they**

know your comfort, strong and everlasting.

We pray for people who need the world to be a more just and equal place, and for those who have power to make changes. May it happen quickly and peacefully.

May they know your righteousness.

We pray for all who need the world to remember them: refugees and asylum seekers, all living in poverty and suffering from climate change. **May we remember; may they know your provision through us.**

Lord Jesus, you led your people through the wilderness and into the promised land by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Be now with all those who have been evacuated due to the fires in California, especially those who have already lost their homes to the fire. Give them comfort in the knowledge that even though the fires rage and the earth gives way You will never leave them nor forsake them. Be their Rock and their Refuge. We pray for fire-fighters and volunteers.

Thank you for all, profoundly known and loved, who enrich our lives every day.

Into Your loving hands we commend them and all others who suffer in any way, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LarFhGeE-ac>

*What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear*

*And what a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer*

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer*

*Songwriters: Charles Crozat Converse / Joseph
Scriven*

A prayer of blessing

Generous God, please fill your holy gift of life with grace; please bless your fragile gift of life with joy; please help us always to cherish your precious gift of life. Amen.

Based on Liturgy by Jean Hudson
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 657359

<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
pastorpablo@fumchanford.org

PHONE: Leave message
(559) 584 4075



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505 N. Redington St, Hanford, CA 93230

Give online at:

Matthew 16: 13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16%3A+13-20&version=NIV>
(8-21-20)