



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

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 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**

*Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD—be exultant before him. (Psalm 68)*

As I come before you God help me to praise your name. Focus my mind on your presence with me and remind me that I am joined together with people around the world worshipping at home. May your name be glorified in our worship. Amen.

**Hymn: "Earth's creator, everyday God"**

Sing, read or pray the words or listen here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1oNP4vaW\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1oNP4vaW_c)

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

Earth's creator, everyday God,  
 Loving Maker, O Jesus,  
 you who shaped us, O Spirit,  
 recreate us, come, be with us.

In your presence, everyday God,  
 we are gathered, O Jesus,  
 you have called us, O Spirit,  
 to restore us, come, be with us.

Life of all lives, everyday God,  
 love of all loves, O Jesus,  
 hope of all hopes, O Spirit,  
 light of all lights, come, be with us.

In our resting, everyday God,  
 in our rising, O Jesus,  
 in our hoping, O Spirit,  
 in our waiting, come, be with us.

In our dreaming, everyday God,  
 in our daring, O Jesus,  
 in our searching, O Spirit,  
 in our sharing, come, be with us.

God of laughter, everyday God,  
 God of sorrow, O Jesus,  
 home and shelter, O Spirit,  
 strong and patient, come, be with us.

Way of freedom, everyday God,  
 star of morning, O Jesus,  
 timeless healer, O Spirit,  
 flame eternal, come, be with us.

Word of gladness, everyday God,  
 word of mercy, O Jesus,  
 word of friendship, O Spirit,  
 word of challenge, come, be with us.

Gentle father, everyday God,  
 faithful brother, O Jesus,  
 tender sister, O Spirit,  
 loving mother, come, be with us.

Our beginning, everyday God,  
our unfolding, O Jesus,  
our enduring, O Spirit,  
journey's ending, come, be with us.

Alleluia, everyday God,  
now and always, O Jesus,  
alleluia, O Spirit, through all ages,  
come, be with us.

*Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)*

### **Let us pray together**

Everyday God,

We praise you that you are with us in  
every part of our lives and you never stop  
loving us.

We praise you for the world you created  
and the beautiful things we see around us.

We praise you that you came to earth in  
Jesus to show us in person how much you  
care about us and the world we live in. As  
we remember your ascension we thank  
you that you did not leave us alone but  
sent your Spirit so that we can always  
know you are with us.

You invite us to join in your work of loving  
people and the planet and we pray that  
you show us how we can share in your  
mission of love. In Jesus name we pray,  
Amen.

### **Today's Reading from the New**

**Testament:** Acts 1: 1-11

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Luke 24: 44-53

### **Time to Reflect**

There has started to be talk in the media  
about a "new normal". Many of us had  
already started to experience the creeping

realisation that things will not quickly or  
immediately go back to exactly how they  
were. Our lives are going to look different  
for a significant period of time, or for  
some of us forever if we too have lost  
people who made up the fabric of our  
lives.

Jesus' disciples have a promise, of the  
Holy Spirit to help them, but they don't  
know when. Like us they must adjust as  
best they can to the new circumstances of  
their lives.

I wonder what they understood of the  
ascension they had witnessed and the  
prayers they may have heard Jesus utter  
like the one we read in today's Gospel.

In this Jesus asks that he be glorified, not  
for himself but for his followers. As Jesus  
ascends he brings all his human  
experience with him so that it is known  
within God. Remember that how ever you  
are feeling today God is with you.

Jesus asks that God will protect his  
followers so that they might be united,  
one as Jesus and the Father are one.

What might we learn about unity and  
fellowship from our experience of  
isolation? -How might we draw closer to  
God and to other people as we emerge  
into a new normal?

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

God our protector,

We come before you in prayer for your  
world, your children and ourselves.

We pray for the world that you have  
made. We thank you for the renewal of  
creation springing up as human activity  
has been restricted. We pray that we will

learn to value these gifts and to live more gently in the future.

We pray for the leaders of nations making impossible decisions on our behalf. We pray that they will speak and act with integrity and protect those who are most vulnerable.

We pray for our church communities. We bring you our sadness at not being able to meet together and we thank you for the people finding it easier to explore faith at this time. We pray that we will find new ways to reach out to the world.

We pray for the people we miss. Our friends and families and those we long to see face to face. We pray for safety and protection for our loved ones.

We pray for those who have lost someone they love and haven't been able to say goodbye. We pray that they will know the comfort of your loving presence and that you will show us how to reach out in love and friendship.

We pray for ourselves in these difficult days shared by so many people but also lived in isolation. Help us to know your protecting love and to live in the power of your Spirit.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn:** Hail the day that sees him rise  
Hymns and Psalms 197

Sing, read or pray the words or you can find an older version of this hymn at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bODz\\_jgTs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bODz_jgTs)

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!

ravished from our wistful eyes! Alleluia!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!  
reascends his native heaven: Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits: Alleluia!  
lift your heads, eternal gates; Alleluia!  
wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!  
take the King of Glory in! Alleluia!

Him though highest heaven receives,  
Alleluia!  
still he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluia!  
though returning to his throne, Alleluia!  
still he calls the world his own: Alleluia!

See! He lifts his hands above; Alleluia!  
see! He shows the prints of love; Alleluia!  
hark! His gracious lips bestow Alleluia!  
blessings on his Church below: Alleluia!  
Master, parted from our sight, Alleluia!  
high above the azure height, Alleluia!  
grant our hearts to you may rise, Alleluia!  
following you beyond the skies: Alleluia!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

Holy God,  
be with me as I leave this time of worship.  
May I know your presence in my everyday  
and live your message of love and hope.  
Amen

Based on Liturgy by Alison Seren  
Adaptation by 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>

### **Acts 1: 1-11 (NIV)**

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in

the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

### **Luke 24: 44-53 (NIV)**

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.