



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



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## Sunday, July 26th 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, open the eyes and ears of our understanding today as we prepare our hearts for worship. We want to see you with our spiritual eyes today. Amen.**

**Hymn: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrw-k7bl3KE>

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see you, I want to see you.  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up,  
shining in the light of your glory.  
Pour out your power and love;  
as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Refrain

To see you high ...

Holy, holy, holy,  
holy, holy, holy,  
holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you.

### Let us pray together

Lord our God, you require truth in the inward parts. We do not wish to deceive but at times we are not honest with ourselves or honest with others. Take any deception, known or unknown and pour out your Spirit of truth. Today we receive your Holy Spirit and ask that as a cold glass of water, you will refresh and cleanse us today of all sin. We give you thanks that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. This is his gracious word: 'your sins are forgiven.' **Amen.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### Today's Gospel Reading:

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### Time to Reflect

Our agricultural friends will know the concept of sowing and reaping. I'm not a good gardener but I know if I plant seed *potatoes*, I will probably dig up *potatoes*. There are numerous biblical passages pursuing themes of sowing and reaping. Jesus taught parables along these lines. In

Galatians 6:7 one reads these words, “do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (NIV). Similar words are found in 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 2 Corinthians 9:6.

As Christians, we have received a *new name* (Isaiah 56:5, Rev 2:17; 3:12, and a *new nature* (John 3:6, Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 3:10, and 2 Corinthians 5:17) so that we can sow good seeds in the lives of others.

The Scripture says, “The Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image” (2 Corinthians 3:18). According to Wesley there would be an initial sanctification process (a process that attends to the entire work of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life) at salvation then a continuing work where the mind of Christ was and is being formed in the Christian’s daily life.

Take a time to sit quietly and ask yourself – what work has already begun in your life? Perhaps, you are not where you want to be but you have progress from where you were.

### **A time of prayer**

Our God, I thank you for the ongoing work in my life. I know it will continue until you take me home. Thank you for sins forgiven, for a life with you now, and a life with you in the hereafter.

We pray for the United Methodist Church, nationally and worldwide.

We pray for the universal Church and the churches that have met through technological means during this time.

We pray for all those who have suffered loss in this present coronavirus situation.

We thank you for every act of kindness done during this time and all the imaginative ways that ministers and lay workers have used to keep in touch with their congregations.

We pray for those who are in need of healing, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Lord in your mercy,

**hear these prayers.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: “Build Your Kingdom Here”**

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

**Build Your kingdom here  
Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand  
Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire  
Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here  
We pray**

Come set Your rule and reign  
In our hearts again  
Increase in us we pray  
Unveil why we're made  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope  
Like wildfire in our very souls  
Holy Spirit come invade us now  
We are Your Church  
And we need Your power  
In us

We seek Your kingdom first  
We hunger and we thirst  
Refuse to waste our lives  
For You're our joy and prize  
To see the captive hearts released

The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace  
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause  
We are Your church  
And we pray revive  
This earth (We're prayin' for revival)

**Refrain:**

Unleash Your kingdom's power  
Reaching the near and far  
No force of hell can stop  
Your beauty changing hearts  
You made us for much more than this  
Awake the kingdom seed in us  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ  
We are Your church  
Oh, and we are the hope  
On earth

**Refrain: //**

Songwriters:  
Chris Llewellyn/Gareth Gilkeson/Will Herron

**A prayer of blessing**

Lord, I have heard the good news that you accept and love all people, including me. Grant that whatever I do this day I will be responding to this love with a humble and thankful heart. **Amen** (Methodist Prayer Handbook, p. 76).

Based on Liturgy by Rev Heather Wilson,  
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere

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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 13:31-33, 44-52 (NIV)**

**The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast**

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds<sup>[a]</sup> of flour until it worked all through the dough."

**The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl**

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

**The Parable of the Net**

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."