



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



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Sunday, September 27th 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

As we still ourselves we recognise that wherever we are, we are in God's presence and the God we know in Jesus waits patiently for us. Lord our God, help us to know your ways and teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth for you are the God of our salvation.

Hymn: "Immortal, invisible, God only wise"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIbnP4yj18>

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;

We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in Glory, thou dwellest of Light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render, O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.
Words: Chalmers Smith, 1867

Music: Welsh melody from Canaidau y Cyssegr,
1839; Adapt. By John Roberts

Let us pray together

Loving God, all worship and adoration belongs to you for you alone are Lord, you alone are the mighty God, Creator of all that is good.

And yet you are closer than our very breath. You are closer than my breath and I thank you Lord that you are always with me, whether I know it or not, whether I recognise it or not, whether I delight in it or not. You are always there to comfort and to challenge. Thank you for your saving presence.

Amen

You might like to bring to mind the things you are sorry for this week, confident in God's loving mercy and forgiveness.

Today's Reading: James 1: 17-27

Time to Reflect

Tradition tells us that the author of the book of James was the brother of Jesus. James was not one of the original twelve disciples, but he quickly became a leader among the believers in Jerusalem after Christ's resurrection. However, the author merely refers to himself as "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." (1:1a)

Christianity was in its early stages; it was still considered a Jewish sect. Followers of Jesus were not even called Christians yet, but they were already experiencing persecution. James wrote to these believers, who had scattered into the world beyond Jerusalem, to encourage them in their suffering, and to give them guidance.

Chapter one serves very much as the introduction to the entire letter. It is like the overture to an opera or a musical where you hear pieces and samples of the music that will be developed later.

Therefore, this chapter covers a lot. Its main concern is answering the question, "What does faith look like?" How do we as followers of Jesus Christ represent or embody the gospel, the good news. In other words, what does it mean to live as a Christian? What does it mean to live as a Christian today 2020? James is very practical in his teachings. He wants us to know what it means to live as a Christian **right now, today, this week**, not in theory, not in the inner workings of our imaginations, but right away.

One thing that it means is understanding that God is a giver of gifts. (vs. 17) God has given us life, not just physical life but also spiritual life.

Take a time to sit quietly and to reflect on what it means to live as a Christian right now, today.

Take time to pause and be present to God

A time of prayer

Lord we have set aside this time to pray, yet as people and situations pop into our minds today and in the week to come help us to take time to hold them in your love and to pray for them.

Now Lord I use this time to bring my concerns to you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to be in me to guide my thoughts that I may pray in accordance with your will and for your glory.

I pray for those who have suffered this week...

I pray for those who have rejoiced this week...

I pray for those I have seen this week...

I pray for those I have longed to see this week.

I pray for myself...

Lord with me here, take these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: "Take my life, and let it be"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ93HvuYd5Y>

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose

Take my will, and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine:
Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836 - 1879)
Music: Nottingham, Mozart (1756 - 1791)

A blessing for you

May you know the Lord with you each day
of your life, may you answer the call to
listen and the challenge to follow.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit will be with you as you go.
Amen

Based on Liturgy by Rev. Anne Smith
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere
Hymns reproduced under CCLI 657359



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505 N. Redington St, Hanford, CA 93230

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<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:

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pastorpablo@fumchanford.org

PHONE: Leave message
(559) 584 4075

James 1:17-27 (NIV)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God

desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A17-27+&version=NIV>