



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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Sunday, June 28th 2020

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

Lord calm my thoughts as I come into your presence to worship you. Open my heart to welcome you in and to receive the blessing of Jesus' love, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: Open the eyes of my heart Lord

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do_wLviNO4M

*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.....

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

Let us pray together

Creator God, I praise you for the beauty of the world that you have made, for richness of texture, colour and form in nature, and for the caring communities around me. Forgive me when I fail to be thankful for the good things in my life.

God is full of grace and mercy; I receive his forgiveness and his love. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 10.40-42

Time to Reflect

The concept of welcome and hospitality in the Middle East is of high importance. Visitors are treated as honoured guests and food and drink is generously shared. That generosity can be a humbling experience.

Generosity and welcome may come from the most unexpected sources, often from the poorest who understand what it is to have nothing.

Jesus gave an example of how people should show unselfish generosity to others through the giving of a cup of cold water to "little ones", arguably not just children but the adult poor or marginalised too. (see Matthew 18.6).

Not everyone welcomes Jesus' offer of love and salvation. Some may reject us and our gospel message. For those who choose to welcome Jesus into their lives, there is an

amazing reward in heaven, eternal life and peace with Jesus Christ.

Like the disciples, our lives should reflect God's generous love to others. How will you receive the one who knocks on your door?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Let us pray for the church, for the world and for ourselves.

Lord Jesus, as the world continues to suffer the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, we pray for compassion and fairness in sharing practical resources and medical expertise so that there might be healing and wholeness for all.

We pray that all those who have influence over the lives of others, might make decisions based on kindness and for the common good. We pray Holy Spirit that you infuse with love the hearts of those who use war as a weapon of power. Hear our prayers for an end to all conflict, and for recognition and support to be given to refugees and displaced people around the world.

Compassionate Christ, we pray for comfort and strength for those who are still isolated, for parents and children, for the elderly and those suffering long term illness. Lord, lift anxiety from those who are worried about the future, their jobs, businesses and their financial situation. May they know that they are not alone, that Jesus is always with them.

Holy Spirit we pray for ourselves, for our plans that have been changed, for the people we have lost and miss still, for our hopes and dreams for the future. Strengthen our faith, deepen our commitment to your ways and help us to better serve God and to see Jesus in everyone we meet.

Thank you Lord that you that your love never fails.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: "Yesterday, Today, Forever"

Listen to

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

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

Receive these words into your heart.

Jesus opens his arms to welcome and accept you, whoever you are and whatever your circumstances. Open your heart and your hands to receive him now, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love, now and always. Amen.

Based on Liturgy by Claire Hargreaves
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 10.40-42

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'