



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



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## Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you. 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, I draw near with faith. Open my eyes to see and ears to hear what you have for me, today and every day. **Amen**

### Hymn: "We are the World"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tRLowGHh4c>

Voices of Hope Children's Choir (Virtual Choir)  
Songwriters: Michael Jackson / Lionel Richie

### A Time of Prayer

Lord God, we pray to you, as Father Son and Holy Spirit, to praise you, For You are our God. We pray to thank you for all that You have done for us, for you are always there. We pray to You as our God, who made the world, died for us, rose again to show us the way to heaven, and lives in us all. We bring before you the burden of all the sins we have committed, and we say Lord God, we are sorry for them. We know that such is your Love, we are forgiven our sins. Thanks be to you, Our God, **Amen**

### Today's New Testament Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

### Time to Reflect

The reading from Romans tells us, Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. In difficult moments, that is enough, to ask of someone that get through these times. What is astonishing is, it can be sufficient if we will let it be. Not that we are ever alone.

We don't like to listen in our despair to anything of hope. Much of the duty of a Christian is to help one another out of the self-pitying. To share our own grief's lessons with those who are in the midst of learning them. We should weep with those who weep, yes, and yet, more than this, we should pass the tissues and try and help them through.

At present, we are much minded to think of all that is wrong in our lives, of those dear to us being taken from us, or at risk of so being. Take thought though of all that is not awful even in our present miseries. For there is more goodness on show than at that burning bush each and

every day, if we would but see it. It may be hard to see, yet that is why God gives us such lights. If we light a candle in a dark room, an experiment I recommend, you will marvel at how much such a small light can reveal. The light of God is alive in every Christian this very day, and it burns even brighter than the sun itself.

If you doubt this, take the Romans passage, and think of examples you have seen of each verse, one or two a day this week. You will soon see much light, more than comes in at your windows in the bright summer days.

If we spend our time doing our bit of Good, we do far more than all the handwringing in history ever accomplished. Do not let yourself think yourself weak, you have prayer, you have the good you can do for others with your God-given abilities. That is quite enough to overcome a lot of evil for other folk, if you would but set to it with a will. So, the True Christian does not just hold to what is good in theory. We do good. For are we not True Christians, all of us?

*Take a time to sit quietly*

### **A time of prayer**

Gracious God, we bring before you our prayers for the world

We pray for all those who lack physical things, food, shelter, water, and all of life's necessities.

We pray for those who mourn, and those who fail. Lord, for those we may help, may our hands work quickly, and for those we personally cannot help, we pray for the hands that will.

We pray for all those who work to provide care and help to others. Lord bless them and keep them from tiredness and error, and those they care for, keep them from despair. We bring the names of those known to us before you...

We pray for all in spiritual distress, who struggle to hear your message, or to come to you in prayer. Lord, help them to heed.

We pray for ourselves. Strengthen us to come through renewed in faith in certainty.

We pray for our land and nation. Lord, help us all to endure, to do our duty and to serve you faithfully. May our land be brightened by the Light of Lord as we leave these times behind.

Lord, we ask these things, knowing that when we pray, wherever we pray, you hear our prayers. Thanks be unto you, Father Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

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

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn:** "Rule of Life"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFV5yv5nDyA>

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

### **A prayer of blessing**

Lord, as we go forth, may we see all the things you long for us to notice. May we be your people in all we do and say. Amen

Based on Liturgy by Thomas 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:**

**[office@fumchanford.org](mailto:office@fumchanford.org)**

**[pastorpablo@fumchanford.org](mailto:pastorpablo@fumchanford.org)**

**PHONE: Leave message  
(559) 584 4075**

## **Romans 12: 9-21 (NIV)**

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.