



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



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Sunday, November 8th 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

Gracious God, help us to breath in your Spirit of Life today. Calm our anxieties, clear our minds of negativity and help us to trust in you. May we radiate your peace and joy to our world as you give us the strength to be your witnesses. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn: "Let There Be Light"

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

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

Star of wonder, star of might Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light

From the beginning the Father Had a magnificent plan Revealed through the law and the prophets To fulfill the redemption of man

You spoke after centuries of silence In the midst of a still, starry night And Emmanuel came down among us And the Father said, 'Let there be light'

**Let there be light, let it shine bright
Piercing the darkness with dazzling white
Hope for the hopeless was born on that
night When God sent His Son and said,**

'Let there be light' Let there be light (Chorus)

People who walked in great darkness
Gathered from near and afar
Shepherds with flocks in their keeping
Three kings who follow a star

Together the poor and the richest
Witness that Bethlehem night
And the sky full of Angels announcing
The birth of a glorious light

(Chorus)

We who are His have this calling
To praise Him and make His name known
So one day the presence of Jesus
Shines in every heart and every home
(Shines in our home)
(Star of wonder, star of beauty bright)

(Chorus) //

Let us pray together

We pray for peace, but not the easy peace built on compliancy and not the truth of God. We pray for real peace, the peace God's love alone can seal. We pray for peace, but not the cruel peace leaving God's poor deprived and dying in distress; We pray for real peace, enriching all the human race.

We pray for peace, and not the evil peace defending unjust laws and nursing prejudice,

But for the real peace of justice, mercy, truth and love.

We pray for peace, holy communion with Christ our risen Lord and every living thing; God's will fulfilled on earth and all creation reconciled.

We pray for peace, and, for the sake of peace, look to the risen Christ who gives the grace we need to serve the cause of peace and make our own self-sacrifice.

God give us peace, if you withdraw your love there is no peace for us, nor any hope of it.

With you to lead us on, through death or tumult, peace will come.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 1–13

Time to Reflect

There's an interview online with a man who'd grown up around the Amish and co-wrote a book about the spirituality of that group. At one point, the interviewer asked this author what all followers of Christ can learn from the Amish. The author answered:

We live in an instant society, and many Christians approach their spiritual lives that way. Many Christians look for quick, easy, painless ways to grow spiritually, and they often end up being disappointed with the growth they see. The Amish point us to the importance of patient practice. They remind us that engaging in everyday — sometimes tedious — practices over long periods of time is the most trustworthy way to foster spiritual depth.¹

The Amish don't necessarily have any more corner on spirituality than other branches of the Christian church. But their understanding that engaging in faithful practices over the long haul fosters spiritual depth — or, we could say, makes

for spiritual preparedness — is instructive for us. And how else except through ongoing practice of our commitments can we learn the grace of endurance?

So whether you think of the Second Coming as an event still in the future or as something that has already happened as Jesus came into your heart, living your commitment to Christ faithfully day after day is the way you fill your spiritual lamp, keeping it burning brightly so as to be ready for whatever God has for us next. Intentionally practicing the means of grace will keep our lamps full. Our light, therefore, will burn brightly in the darkness, ready to illuminate the path that leads to Jesus. And the Peace of God which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,

Take a time to sit quietly

Our prayers

Jesus, come among us as bringer of hope. We pray for the life of the world, for its diversity of culture and experience and life and faith. We pray for this world, for its leaders, and pray that all may work for justice and peace throughout the world.

Jesus comes among us as bringer of healing. We pray for those whose lives have been and continue to be affected because of the conflicts of our world. We pray for those who through their skill in medicine bring healing to many people. We pray for all those who work in the conflict zones of the world as they seek to bring medical care in difficult circumstances.

Jesus comes among us as bringer of light. We pray for hope for our world. We give thanks for the many people who bring light and hope into their world. We pray for the Church as we seek to discover more of the hope that God sets before us. We pray that the light of the

risen Christ will give hope, as light shining in the darkness.

Jesus comes among us as bringer of peace. In the unresolved questions that this day brings, may we find peace. In bringing the memories of those who have died, may we find peace. In the world in which we live today, may we find peace.

We bring our prayers in Jesus name. Amen

Hymn: Listen to 'Beauty for Brokenness'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO1G-o7Yj-c>

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair, Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.

Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace, sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills, work for all people, trade for their skills; land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak, voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray: melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain; come, change our love from a spark to a flame.

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear, cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share. Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green, Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams plundered and poisoned -- our future, our dreams. Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed; make us content with the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame until your justice burns brightly again; until the nations learn of your ways, seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

Creator God, we commit to you the needs of the whole world. Where there is hatred, give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is distrust, faith; where there is sorrow, hope, where there is darkness, light. And may the blessing and peace of God remain with us, with those for whom we have prayed, and all we remember today who are and have been caught up in the conflicts of this world. Amen.

Based on Liturgy by Philip Wagstaff
Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere
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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

pastorpablo@fumchanford.org

PHONE: Leave message

(559) 584 4075 Epistle Reading



Gospel of Matthew 25: 1-13 (NRSV)

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.