



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



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"Let us open our eyes to see!"

". . .But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. . ."
(Romans 1:19-20)

As I was driving to church today, I was blown away by the beauty emerging all around. Those trees with those white blossoms, the almond trees around the city, The daffodil blooming around my neighborhood. These first days on March have confirmed the calendar's declaration that spring has sprung, and the warmer temperatures have coaxed the Earth into re-awakening. Now what will happen in the next few days, I do not know, but I have seen and felt the hope of Spring.

During this year plus corona virus pandemic I have heard the question "Where is God in all of this?" Maybe you have asked it yourself. "God, where are you?" The apostle Paul unable to visit the Christian community living in Rome, is aware that their faith might be declining as they deal with the lack of his presence in corporate worship; he knows they might be tempted to join society's position and give up hope and conviction in God. They do not feel the same nearness of the Spirit, so Paul gives them proof of God's eternal power-the beauty and mystery of nature, the world that God created.

Did you ever think of nature's beauty as God's personal gift of love to you? A reassurance that God is loving on you and communicating with you in the midst of life's chaos? That daffodil that opened overnight by your back door? Well, that's God's "Good morning, beloved." A flowing, gurgling stream is a reminder of the Living Water available to quench the thirst of loneliness. The warmth of sunshine on your face is a call to soak in the radiance of God's love.

What if we looked at the emergence of Spring as God's tangible reminder to us that God is always capable of miraculous re-creations? And that out of the darkness and unfruitfulness of winter, spring's predictable arrival is a testament to God's steadiness? Let us see and lie around in God's Holy Faithfulness every day as the world around us buds and flowers once again.

Where is God in all this? God is everywhere! Let us open our eyes to see!

Let us pray: Holy Creator, open our eyes that we may see glimpses of love you have for us. Widen our perspective so that we can receive nature's beautiful reawakening as a message of Your hope and comfort. Amen.

“Now I can say I Live a Day” (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

March 3rd, 2021

Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

[UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL](https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals) <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

[UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS](https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/) <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>