



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



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“We worship God in spirit and in truth”

“Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.” John 2: 19-22

Jesus is the One in Whom heaven and earth meet. He is the One in whom God’s Spirit dwells, just as in the Temple. In other words, we don’t simply reduce our worship of God to a place or a building. We worship God in spirit and in truth, and we come to God through Jesus’ own body, by his death and resurrection, which is our Temple (John 4:24).

How easy it is for us to make what we build or what we do, the center of it all: the ever ancient, ever contemporary tendency to make the creaturely the Creator!

I mean I love this building of First UMC of Hanford. But if there is something that I hope we all have learned over the last year – and it will be one year this weekend since we entered into the pandemic phase of ministry – it is that our worship of God needs to be about God! Not the technology, though important. Not the styles of worship or rituals, though important. Not the architecture, though meaningful. Not the personality of the pastor and church leaders. Rather, Jesus’ costly lesson here at the beginning of this Gospel is about the true worship of God; it is about realizing who the true end of worship is – Jesus Christ!

And in a world, even in the church, where we can take God’s name in vain, or where we can find all kinds of ways to manage or control God, even kill in God’s name – this lesson is more important than ever: it calls us to wake up and listen to the ways we all can succumb to making idols of what is even the most beautiful, or even what we care about the most!

Maybe this is what we have been learning over the last year: that our true sanctuary, our true temple, is Christ, and that his body is not contained to a building, but extends through the bonds of relationships, the chords of love. That as God’s Son, as the Lamb of God, Jesus really is

the One in whom we see the fullness of God's glory, the One whose death and resurrection will turn this world upside down! Amen.

Let us pray: O Lord, help us to listen to the voice of your Son who comes to overturn our settled-ways and who disrupts our ideas of what it means to worship you and you alone. In Christ's name, Amen.

"Now I can say I Live a Day" (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

March 11th, 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/>