



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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“Listen..., you might be surprised”

“... Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.’ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.”

John 12:28-29

This passage of scripture is one of the few in the New Testament where we are told that there was an actual, audible voice from heaven. Some who heard, thought it was a loud noise - thunder, distant rumbling, or perhaps a loud, nearby storm rolling in, or even the growing crowds and commotion of the festival. Others knew that Jesus had just prayed so they thought what they heard was an angel answering him. With our vantage point to the story, and with John’s account, we know it was not thunder, the roaring crowd, or an angel. It was God.

Even with our vantage point, I cannot help but ask, how often do we miss the voice of God because we are not listening with our whole heart, soul, strength, and mind? How many times do we miss what God is doing because we do not want to hear it, do not want to see it because it does not fit our narrative for God?

Our entire life on earth is a long walk in the same direction and that direction is toward the God who created us. Toward the others of this world. Toward the people walking through the same mess as we are. Toward our truest self. We cannot walk that pilgrim path successfully without listening to and for God; without translating all the noise around us. It is like we are swimming in the pool against our biggest rival - the stands are full, the noise is loud and coming from all sides. We have to tune ourselves to hear God above, through and in the midst of all that. That takes practice. That takes patience - discipline. That takes presence - opening our ears and staying the course.

The more we practice, the better we get at not only hearing God but listening to what God is saying and doing. The better we get at recognizing where and when God has something to say along our life journey.

As we walk the last leg of this Lenten journey, I want to encourage, invite, and challenge you to commit yourself to listening. Give ear (and heart and mind) to Jesus and remember, he likes to turn things upside down. You might be surprised what you hear...and what you do not. You might be surprised at what he is saying and what he is not. AMEN.

Let us pray: For all our listening, please Lord, let us hear. Let us take in what you have for us. Let us embody mercy, hope, and love.

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

Pastor Pablo

March 25th , 2021

Holy Week Information:

Palm Sunday – March 28th 2pm Outdoor Worship Service

Maundy Thursday – April 1st (Worship will be recorded)

Good Friday – April 2nd (Worship will be recorded)

EASTER Sunday – April 4th 2pm Outdoor Worship Service

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/>