



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



505 N. Redington Street Hanford, CA93230  
559-584-4075 (voice) 559-584-5438 (fax)

office@fumchanford.org [www.fumchanford.org](http://www.fumchanford.org) Facebook: @HanfordFirstUMC

### **“God Is”**

*“...They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.” (Mark 16: 8)*

I want to challenge you today by asking: What if rather than asking the question “what if” out of fear and doubt, we asked the question out of faith; trusting in the resurrection is indeed for us? Trusting that God is with us through it all?

Two things could happen. First, we would begin to ask more positive what if questions: What if this actually works? What if things, people, ideas, understanding, and paradigms could change? What if that person could teach us? What if the hard conversations make us better? What if we tried it this way? What if we gave them the benefit of the doubt? What if they are doing the best they can with what they have and where they are?

Second, even if the negative what if’s raise their voice and fear rebels against us, we would begin to hear whispers of “even if” stand to replace them: Even if this is the new normal, God is with us, “He is Risen”. Even if it is hard, God will see us through, “He is Risen”. Even if life is chaotic, the house is a mess, or my heart is breaking, Jesus walks with me, holds my hand, and has my back, “He is Risen”. Even if the situation or circumstance does not make sense and we cannot feel God near, “He is Risen”. Even if things seem to be falling apart at the seams, God is an incredible seamstress. Even if...

I am one in whom Christ dwells and I live in the unshakable kingdom of God. What if you could say that of yourself and truly believe it? What if your life reflected such awareness, certainty, hope, and renewal? What if you started not from a place of fear, or imposing your assumptions and expectations on everyone else, and instead, embraced that if God is for us, nothing and no one can stand against - or come between God’s love and us; not death, or sadness or grief or loss or loneliness, not a global pandemic, not politics, racial injustice, broken systems or long standing institutions; not labels, oppression, violence, or divisive behavior.

If God is for us dear church (and God is), there is no room for fear, only faith, hope, love, and resurrection. And our communities, our families, friends, colleagues, neighbors - our world could use a little faith, hope, love, and rebirth right now. Amen.

Let us Pray: Our God, we praise you for the miracle of love and the promise of eternal life. Thank you for your amazing gift of full life in your Son Jesus Christ. Help us always to remember what makes Easter so happy. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN!

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

Pastor Pablo

April 7<sup>th</sup> , 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/>