



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Ascension Sunday**

**Order of Worship**

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 | 11am**

(If you are visiting, thank you for choosing First United Methodist Church today. Please take a minute to complete a Contact/Prayer Card located in the pew racks. Place the card into the collection plates anytime during worship.)

**Our Vision for First UMC is to share the message of Christ through community, compassion and faith.  
So we exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

**Announcements:**

**Centering Time** - Prepare Your Heart for Worship

**Responsive Call to Worship**

L: What a glorious vision!

**P: Jesus gave the glorious promise of an Advocate!**

L: Then he ascended to God!

**P: What joy there must have been in the hearts of the disciples.**

L: May God find such joy in our hearts and spirits!

**P: Prepare us, Lord, for the mighty works you place before us. AMEN.**

**Hymn**

“O Worship the King” # 73

**Opening Prayer**

God of Glory and Grace, the risen and ascended Christ calls us to carry your message of life to all people. Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ’s love to the ends of the earth. Amen.

**Hymn**

“Shall We Gather at the River” # 723

**Passing of the Peace**

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.  
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn**

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” # 731

**Scripture readings**

**Acts 1: 1-11 (NIV)**

**Luke 24: 44-53 (NIV)**

**Children Moment**

“Where Children belong” #2233

**Message**

“Joyful Witnesses”

**Hymn**

“Father, We Thank You” # 565

**Words of Offering and Prayer****Doxology # 95****Prayer of Dedication**

God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. We push back our inclination to be more generous because of our anxiety about the economy. We hold back on sharing our faith and advocating for compassion and justice out of anxiety about the division in our world and in our neighborhood. We hold back on inviting neighbors to church out of anxiety about how they might view the church right now. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast the anxiety on Jesus, for the one the tomb could not hold can carry our anxiety with ease. In the name of Jesus, who broke the hold of death once and for all. Amen

**Closing Hymn**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” # 664

**Benediction**