



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



14th Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

Sunday, September 3rd, 2023 | 11am

CCLI License # 657359 | CCLI Streaming License #21785776

(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: We gather as a community of compassion and hope.

P: Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly.

L: By this caring and sharing we will be known as followers of Jesus.

P: By our example others may be led to lives of peace.

L: Lord, open our hearts and minds this day to your word.

P: Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents. Amen.

Hymn

“We are God's people” # 2220

Opening Prayer

Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our trust in your eternal love. Enable us to be more effective in our witness to that love by word and deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service. These things we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Hymn

“Trust and Obey” # 467

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

“Lord, Speak to Me” # 463

Scripture readings

Matthew 16: 21-28 (NIV)

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Please respond to "The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ," with "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Children Moment "Where Children belong" #2233

Message Take Up What Cross?

Hymn "Jesus Keep Me near The Cross" # 301

Words of Offering and Prayer

Doxology # 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lift!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Dedication

God of power and might: We, like Peter, struggle with the image of a savior sent to suffer and die. We may seem to be doing great in following Christ, but we too stumble at this point. Perhaps we stumble because we know that what follows is Christ's call to us to deny ourselves and pick up a cross of our own in order to follow. As we bring gifts for the work of building your kingdom, help us to learn to deny, carry, and follow. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen

Communion (The Great Thanksgiving | Red Hymnal # 13)

Closing Hymn "Onward, Christian Soldiers" # 575

Benediction