



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Order of Worship**

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 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: Welcome to this community of faith.

**P: We come seeking hope and courage for the future.**

L: Here you will find peace, hope, love and joy.

**P: We come weighed down by difficulties in our lives.**

L: Here you will find Jesus who will take your burdens on himself.

**P: Lord, we come to you this day in need of your mercy and love. AMEN**

**Hymn**

“We Are God’s People” # 2220

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Our world is in such peril. Heal these wounds and quiet the words of war. Help us to be those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish the darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to everyone. In Jesus’ name we pray. AMEN.

**Hymn**

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” # 540

**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**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” # 2171

**Scripture readings**

**Matthew 18: 15-20 (NIV)**

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

**Children Moment**

"Where Children belong" #2233

**Message**

"The church. The church. All the church wants is... "

**Hymn**

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" # 496

**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**

Loving God, we are gathered together to listen to your Word and to witness to its' truths. We give joyously today and dedicate this offering to your work. We are inspired to share your glorious love with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Increase our talents and offerings so that your name is exalted with unending praise. Blessed is your name! Amen.

**Closing Hymn**

"How Great Thou Art" # 77

**Benediction**