



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



## Second Sunday of Advent

"The Heart that Grew Three Sizes"

### Order of Worship

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 11am**

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(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

One: Hope is like the coals of a fire once burning bright.

**Many: Still warm with the promise of what tomorrow might bring.**

One: Still searching for a spark that will bring us back to life.

**Many: Still seeking when everything seems lost.**

One: Hope breaks forth in the form of a child named Jesus.

**ALL: Our God comes to earth—fuel to rekindle the flame. Amen.**

Hymn

"O come O come Emmanuel" # 211 (first and Second verse only)

**Lighting of the Advent Candle (Hope)**

### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty and merciful God, you know the thoughts of our hearts. You know when our hope fails and we become heartless toward ourselves, our families, the world, our neighbors, and even You. You know when we tolerate injustice because it is comfortable. Forgive us, we pray, when we turn away from your call to love. And help our unbelief when we doubt in You. Move us toward others so that your Spirit may produce in us the fruit that showcases your heart to the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

"People, look East" # 202

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**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**

“Lo, how a rose E’er blooming” # 216

**Scripture readings**

**Matthew 3: 1-12 (NIV)**

**Children Moment**

“Where Children belong” #2233

**Message**

“The Heart that grew three sizes, 2: When Christmas Isn’t Christmas”

**Hymn**

“kum Ba Yah” #494

**WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS****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, you powerfully proclaim through your prophet John the need for us to repent of our sins and to prepare the way of the Lord. We place these offerings upon your altar with the knowledge that they will support many ministries that proclaim your Good News and lead people on your path. By offering you these generous gifts, we prepare ourselves to be led along your path of grace and love. We pray with your guiding presence. Amen.

**Closing Hymn**

“When morning gilds the skies” #185

**Benediction**