



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



Third Sunday of Advent

"The Heart that Grew Three Sizes"

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 17th, 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

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom.

You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

Beloved, listen. God is calling you. To be freed and to free your neighbors.

To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one who's coming
we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

Hymn

"O come O come Emmanuel" # 211 (3 first verses only)

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Joy)

Opening Prayer

Holy God of Joy, We rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.

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Hymn "Come thou long-expected Jesus" # 196

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 "O little town of Bethlehem" # 230

Scripture readings **Luke 1: 26-38 (NIV)**

Children Moment "Where Children belong" #2233

Message "The Heart that grew three sizes, 3: When Light shines"

Hymn "Once in royal David's city" # 250

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

Rejoicing God, we offer you thanks and praise for this season of anticipation, this season of Advent. As we prepare for the birth of your son, we share our tithes and offerings with the joy and excitement that is common as one anticipates the birth of a new child. Bless these gifts in your Holy Name. Amen.

Closing Hymn "Hark the herald angels sing" # 240

Benediction