



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The Heart that Grew Three Sizes"

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 24th, 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

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world,
bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

Hymn

"Oh come all ye faithful" # 234

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Love)

Opening Prayer

In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration, we come to this place to be fed by God. We need the peace, hope, joy and love that this season represents. We need to listen again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God's most miraculous gift. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn "Angels we have heard on high" # 238

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 "Joy to the world" #246

Scripture readings **Luke 1: 39-56 (NIV)**

Children Moment "Away in the Manger" # 217

Message "The Heart that grew three sizes"

Hymn "Mary did you know" Grace Mc Garrell

Hymn "Hark the herald angels sing" # 240

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

Magnificent God, as we focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus, we are reminded that you do great wonders and signs through the most humble and obedient of your children. As we give our gifts to you this day, give us ears to hear the whispers of the angels speaking to us; give us eyes to see the needy and the unloved all around us; and give us faith to offer our lives to your plan of saving love. In Christ, our redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn "Silent night" # 239

Benediction