



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



**Order of Worship (PP)**

**Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 | 11am**

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**First Sunday of Advent**

“No matter who, no matter what,  
no matter where you are on your spiritual journey...  
You are welcome here!”

**Our Mission:** *We seek to grow in God’s Grace by sharing the message of Jesus Christ through community, compassion, and faith. So we exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.*

**Our Vision:** *We seek to grow in love with Jesus Christ by connecting people to God, people to people, and people to service.*

**Welcome & Announcements:**

**Centering Time** - Prepare Your Heart for Worship

**Opening Hymn**                      Come, thou long expected Jesus UMH # 196

**Call to Worship/Opening prayer (Responsively)**

L: Have you seen it .....the Spark of Hope which God is placing among us.

**P: All we can see is hectic lives, crowded stores, darkness and fear.**

L: Look again.....the spirit of God is moving, bringing hope.

**P: We need to place our hope in God, but we are afraid.**

L: A long time ago, people were afraid and God brought to them Light.

**P: May God bring that light to us today! AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

We can hardly believe it, Lord. The Advent season is upon us. We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY. But when we place our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape and boxes, we forget the most glorious gift of all, the gift of God's absolute love. Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today to behold God's gracious love for us in the fulfillment of all God's promises. For we ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope**

*(Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.)*

**Hymn**                                      O come, o Come Emmanuel UMH # 211

**Sharing of The Peace:** We greet those around us with a sign of peace (handshakes or hugs) and words like "The peace of the Lord be with you".

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 21: 25-36

### **Children's Moment**

Where Children Belong TFWS # 2233

(As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward)

### **Message:**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn:** Come, ye thankful people, come UHM # 694

### **INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS & SERVICE**

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness)

*We commit our time, talent, treasure, willingness to serve and gift of witness out into the world as we bring our offerings.*

### **\*Doxology**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to look up, to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. (Luke 21:25-36)**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

**Closing Hymn:** Go forth for God UMH 670

### **\*Benediction**

Beloved, go from this place blessed with a hope that takes root and grows, preparing us to notice, listen, and join in with God's kin-dom work among us. Amen.