



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



**Order of Worship**

**Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 11am**

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**Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)**

“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**

O come, o Come Emmanuel UMH # 211 (vs. 1-3)

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

L: Welcome today to this time of preparation.

**P: Although we have been preparing for celebrations,  
we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.**

L: Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

**P: How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.**

L: Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

**P: Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace. AMEN.**

]

**Opening Prayer**

We have prepared our homes, and our gifts, Lord, but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive your message of Peace. Free us from the stresses and strains of this time, and place your peace which passes all our understanding in our hearts. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace**

[The first and second Advent Candles are lighted]

**Hymn**

O little town of Bethlehem UMH # 230

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## Sharing of The Peace:

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:1-6

## Children's Moment

Where Children Belong TFWS # 2233

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

Message: Peace

## Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Away in a manger UMH # 217

## 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 and Giving God, we once again prepare for the birth of your chosen Son. Through the voices of prophets and preachers, you have been heard in the driest deserts and the steepest valleys. Unfurl our hearts and open our minds so that we may hear your salvation story anew. Giving this money is a worshipful gesture of our unending alleluias to you. We dedicate this offering to your Kingdom work. Amen.

Closing Hymn: In the bleak Midwinter UMH # 221

## \*Benediction