



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



**Order of Worship**

**Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 11am**

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

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

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

**P: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**

L: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

**P: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

L: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

**P: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy**

*[The first, second and third Advent Candles are lighted]*

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

**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 Readings:** Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**Children's Moment**

Where Children Belong TFWS # 2233

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

**Message:** Hold onto Joy

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn:** It came upon a midnight clear UMH # 218

**INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS & SERVICE**

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

**\*Doxology**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**Lord of Light, you gave yourself to this world by the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thankfully rejoice and praise you for your peace and light shared with all nations. Now, center us on the King of Glory during these prayerful moments of giving. We present these gifts as your humble and willing servants in the name of the One who comes to us anew, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** Go tell it on the mountain UMH # 251

**\*Benediction**