



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



**Order of Worship**

**Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 | 11am**

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**Fourth 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

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

L: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace and Joy.

**P: Today Belief and Love are the theme.**

L: Today we will hear the story of surprising commitment.

**P: We will learn of Mary and God's wonderful love.**

L: Today we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

**P: Open our hearts, Lord, that we may be ready for your love. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Love**

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

## Hymn

**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 1: 39-45

## Children's Moment

Where Children Belong TFWS # 2233

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

## Message:

The Gifts before the First Christmas

## Pastoral Prayer

## Hymn:

## 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)

**God of Glory, we eagerly anticipate the joy-filled celebration of Jesus' birthday party. We recall now in the quiet recesses of our minds the thrill of receiving your message of salvation. As we open ourselves again to this holy wonder, accept these generous gifts. May the ministries that these gifts support invite others to receive the saving message of the Christ Child. In His name, we pray. Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

## \*Benediction