



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



Order of Worship

Sunday December 29th, 2024 | 11am

CCLI License # 657359 | CCLI Streaming License #21785776

First Sunday after Christmas Day

“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

Call to Worship/Opening prayer (Responsively)

Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!

God has come to make a home among us!

Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.

And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday, something surprising happens, and we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.

Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Loving God may we be found and may we find a place called home, a place where faith holds us and grace renews us, where forgiveness longs for us to be who you will us to be. May we find a place called home, where we are accepted as we are, where we are taken in and loved unconditionally. May we find a place where we belong and our souls fit, where our questions are allowed and our anger is heard, where our needs are recognized and our pain is held, where our names are known. May this be that place, O God, this community, this group of travelers and doubters and companions on the way. This home, where your place is our place, and place isn’t a building but a way of being together in relationship, held together by love. Loving God, Homecoming God, may we make this a home to all who still seek a place of grace-filled sanctuary and gracious welcome. So be it Amen

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: Psalm 19: 14, Psalm 119: 97-99, Philippians 4: 8

Children's Moment

Where Children Belong TFWS # 2233

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

Message:

Meditation of the Heart

Connie Smith

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)

King of Kings, we join the angels in singing your unending praise. You alone created the universe in all of its glory. We present these gifts knowing that they will be transformed into ministries of Good News. Bless this offering so our giving honors your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

*Benediction

Beloved, may God bless you with transformation, because together we have encountered the incarnate Christ who makes a home among us and sends us home never to be the same again. Amen.