



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



Reconciling Congregation

**Sunday, September 7, 2025 | 11am**

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Welcoming Statement

"No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey...

You are welcome here! Welcome to Hanford UMC"

Our Vision for First UMC is to share the message of Christ through community, compassion and faith.

So we exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Mission is to connect people to God, people to people, and people to service.

**Announcements:**

- **Sign Up for a Meal with Pastor Pablo and the Vargas Family on a Wednesday evening- sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in hosting or participated in this communal event.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month potluck Sunday- stay afterwards for a tasty meal.**
- **Charge conference this year will be held on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. We plan to have a church potluck for that Sunday, so stayed tuned.**

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

**Opening Hymn**

Immortal Invisible #103

**Responsive Call to Worship (Unison)**

Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

**Wherever we go, God knows our name.**

Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

**Whatever we do, God knows our name.**

However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you.

**However we live, God knows our name.**

We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

**We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name!**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace #2171.

**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 139:1-6, 13-18**

**Children's Moment: at this time children will be dismissed for Children's Church**

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## Message:

Pastor Pablo Vargas: "I'm an Open Book, Search Me Anyway"

## Sermon Notes:

-The Psalms: a mix of poems, songs, or hymns. Scholars and theologians will typically categorize the Psalms into two basic forms laments and praise by which God is invoked. And depending on the speaker of the praise or lament, the voice can be an individual, David, or the community.

-The Psalms can be seen as an open book of a peoples' most profound thoughts about life. It is, in other words, as biblical scholar Claus Westermann puts it, "the Living Psalms" and "We can only describe and understand the psalms as originating from worship when worship is seen as the unifying center of the nation's common life" (The Living Psalms, Westermann)

-Walter Brueggeman classifies the Psalms of *Orientation, Disorientation, and Reorientation*.

-*The Psalms of Orientation*- The psalms included here are not the most interesting. According to Brueggeman "what mainly characterizes them is the absence of tension." They can be "characterized by a sense of orderliness, goodness, and reliability" (The Psalms and the Life of Faith).

-*The Psalms of Disorientation*- psalms of lament, both individual and corporate (Westermann), which are "ways of entering linguistically into a new distressful situation in which the old orientation has collapsed." These are your juicier Psalms- they express hate, resistance or denial, dislocation, a desire to return to better times.

-*The Psalms of Re-Orientation*- the hymns and songs of thanksgiving. "These psalms reflect a quite new circumstance that speaks of newness, surprise, and gift.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Song

Glorify Thy Name: TFWS#2016

## The Eucharist- Communion

### 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)

Loving God, we offer you the gift of our lives, recognizing all you provide for each of us. Please receive the symbols of each of our lives presented in this offering. And accept, as well, the good intentions of our hearts and minds as we offer you our time and talent, that we might live in gratitude rather than in fear. AMEN

## Closing Hymn:

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How Great Thou Art: #77

## Benediction