

Redemption Road



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."



A Reconciling Congregation

**505 N. Redington St.
(559) 584-4075
office@fumchanford.org
www.fumchanford.org**

**Pastor: Rev. Pastor Pablo R. Vargas
Music Director: Cavan O'Neill**

Palm Sunday Worship Service - 3.29.2026
Lay Worship Leader- Janet Wix

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer

Responsive Call to Worship

Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.

We gather to travel God's redemption road together.

Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

We gather to travel God's redemption road together.

Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them.

We gather to travel God's redemption road together.

Beloved, whatever we bring with us to worship today, God welcomes us and calls us to work together as we travel God's redemption road together.

We gather to be truth-tellers and life-bringers as we travel God's redemption road together. Amen.

"Rejoice the Lord is King" UMH 715

Passing the Peace of Christ (with hugs, handshakes, and fist bumps)

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

"What Wondrous Love is This" UMH 292

Scripture Reading- Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of our Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

** “Children are dismissed to “Godly Play” at this time**

Sermon: “The Entry of the Humble King”

-Pastor Pablo R. Vargas

1. A Counter-Procession of Peace, Not Empire Biblical scholars emphasize that Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem contrasts directly with Roman imperial displays of power. “Jesus’ procession deliberately countered what imperial power looked like.” — Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan Riding a donkey instead of a warhorse, Jesus embodies humility and nonviolence (*Zechariah 9:9*), revealing a kingdom grounded in justice and peace—not domination. Wesleyan Connection: Faith is lived in public witness, confronting injustice through love.

2.

The Crowd as an Intergenerational Community of Practice

The

“large crowd” (Matt. 21:8) represents a diverse, participatory community—each person contributing differently (cloaks, branches, voices). “The church is a community where faith is learned through shared practices across generations.” — Dorothy C. Bass This reflects how discipleship is formed not individually, but collectively. Wesleyan Connection: **John Wesley taught that “social holiness” means we grow in grace together, not alone.**

3.

“Hosanna” as Both Praise and Protest

The

crowd’s cry—“Hosanna” (“Save us now”)—is both worship and a call for liberation. “Hosanna is not just a cheer; it is a plea for God to act in the face of injustice.” — N. T. Wright This dual meaning invites us to see worship as active, engaged and hopeful. Wesleyan Connection: **Worship leads to action—uniting personal piety with works of mercy and justice.**

“Lift High the Cross”

UMH-159

Offeratory

Offering Prayer (In Unison) & Collection

Humble Savior, you ride into our lives not with force, but with invitation—calling us to follow, to risk, and to trust. As we bring these gifts, we confess we don’t always understand where the road leads. But like those who laid down cloaks and waved palms, we offer what we have with hope in our hearts and praise on our lips. Use these offerings to proclaim your kingdom—where love confronts fear, and peace dares to speak in the shadow of power. Save us, Lord. Use us. Amen

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

UMH-327

Benediction (Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out our new announcement board in the sanctuary entry.

Women's Bible Study- "Discerning the Voice of God"
led by Melani Marks beginning April 13th
From 7:00-8:30pm in Millie Kraft Lounge
See Melanie for more details

*****Holy Week Schedule*****

Maundy Thursday, April 2 7:00 pm
First Christian Church
505 Cameron Street
Soup Supper Provided from 6:00pm

Good Friday – April 3 – 6:30 pm
Episcopal Church of Our Savior
519 N Douty St

Easter Sunday April 5
Sunrise Service – 6:30am
(In Prayer Garden/Breakfast following)
Sanctuary Worship – 11:00am



Giving Just Got
Easy - Point Your
Camera at the QR
Code



**'Love Your Neighbor'
Food Drive**

Help restock our pantry!
Donate nonperishable
food & household
essentials for our
neighbors in need!

