



## **First United Methodist Church of Hanford**

“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

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**Pastor: Rev. Pastor Pablo R. Vargas**  
**Music Director: Cavan O'Neill**  
**Lay Worship Leader: Jason Marks**  
**Sunday Worship Service - 5.03.2026**

## Words of Welcome & Announcements

### Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

#### Opening Prayer- Lay Worship Leader

We worship you, O God, with joyful noise—with words of praise and adoration spoken and sung in the name of Jesus who brought your love song to us in person. You put new words in our mouths and new intentions in our hearts, especially a new understanding of power. Power shaped by love and righteousness, justice and mercy. We now know that power is not to be used to exploit or dominate, but to serve others as willingly as Jesus did. His life and death demonstrated how the love of power could be transformed by the power of love. We gather here today to celebrate your rule of love in our hearts as we experience it in Jesus and through the enabling gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen

#### Responsive Call to Worship

Family of God, we gather to join our voices with all creation:

**Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!**

God is our Creator who loves us and cares for us.

**Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!**

God is our Savior who redeems us and teaches us to boldly love one another as God loves us

**Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!**

God is our Advocate who sustains us and empowers us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!**

Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

**We come to worship God by boldly loving and joyfully serving, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen**

**“God of Wonders”**

**Praise Team**

**Passing the Peace of Christ** (with hugs, handshakes, bumps, etc.)

**Pastoral Welcome and Prayer** (Psalm 100)

**“Here I Am, Lord” -UMH 593**

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

## **Scripture Reading- 1 Peter 4:7-11 (The Message)**

<sup>a</sup>Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and *he'll* get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon: "Love that Moves"**

-Pastor Pablo R. Vargas

### **Love urgently and deeply**

"Love each other as if your life depended on it."

*"Love seeks the good of the other at cost to oneself."* — Karen Jobes

### **Let love cover, not condemn**

"Love makes up for practically anything."

*"Love absorbs wrongs without retaliation."* — Thomas Schreiner

### **Practice cheerful hospitality**

"Be quick... cheerfully."

*"Hospitality enacts the welcome of God."* — Joel Green

### **Serve as stewards of grace**

"God's gifts... are to be passed around."

*"Gifts are tools for service, not status."* — Craig Keener

### **Rely on God's strength**

"Let it be God's hearty help."

*"All service participates in God's activity."* — John Elliott

### **📖 Aim for God's glory**

"So that God gets all the glory."

*"Love God, and you will live rightly."* — Augustine

## **Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offering, and Unison Prayer**

**All: Joyful Giver of every good gift, you call us to serve with glad hearts, to offer what we have with joy, and to love one another deeply, because love covers a multitude of**

**sins. Receive these gifts as acts of praise. Use them to build up the body, to speak your truth with grace, and to serve others with strength not our own. Let us give not out of duty but as joyful stewards of your manifold grace, that in all things, through Christ, you may be glorified. In the name of the one who serves with us, Amen.**

### **Offertory (Choir)**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, too often, we overlook the needs of people around us while we proclaim our devotion to you. We could do so much more to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick. We fail to recognize how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us, how our medical system denies healing to the poor, how poverty leaves children without coats, how legal obstacles keep strangers at a distance. Open our hearts to recognize your presence in every person, and to respond to their needs in a way that is faithful to your vision of the kingdom, so that we may be rightly called by your name.

Though we wander, God searches us out. God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer. Receive this good news: God pardons our sin and frees us to boldly love and joyfully serve God and neighbor.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.**

#### **Communion (UMH pages 9-11)**

**("Old Rugged Cross" UMH-504 Sung During Communion)**

**"Sent Out in Jesus Name" (TFWS 2184)**

**Benediction (Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour)**