



WAIT WITH EAGER LONGING



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

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

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 7.19.2026

Lay Worship Leader- Peggy Gregory

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Responsive Call to Worship

Today, we gather to join our voices with winds and seas, sunshine and rain, mountains and grassy plains to worship God, our Creator.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

We gather to join our hearts with creatures who creep and crawl, slither and squirm, swim and soar, to worship God, our Creator.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

We gather as witnesses of the harm that has been done to God's creation, to the groanings of the earth and all the earth's inhabitants who long for peace and flourishing.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Come, let us worship God who strengthens and equips us, guiding us to live out our faith as good stewards of God's good creation.

Come, let us worship God who inspires and empowers us to be stewards of hope and redemption in a wounded and hurting world! Amen.

Opening Prayer

"We Gather Together"

UMH-131

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples

approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

“Shout to the North”

Praise Team

**** “Children are dismissed to class at this time****

Scripture Reading- Romans 8:12-25 (NRSV) ¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Leader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Living into the “Already, but Not Yet” Kingdom of God Pastor Pablo R. Vargas

“I Come with Joy”

UMH- 617

Invitation to Give Our Offerings and Tithes

Offering Prayer (In Unison)

Compassionate Creator, you formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us life and purpose. In these gifts we return, we offer more than resources; we offer our hope. Let these gifts, given in trust, be signs of our partnership in the renewal of all creation. Awaken in us a holy longing, as deep as the groaning of the earth itself, for justice, healing, and new life. May our giving participate in your redemption, until the world rejoices in freedom and glory as your children. We offer this with joy, in the name of Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others. We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times are just impossible for us. We know that nothing is impossible in You. We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us. Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness. For Your Son came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied, abused and put to death. He rose again and came with the message of peace to those who had denied him and abandoned him. May we walk in his ways. Amen.

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

For nothing is impossible with God. There is no place you can go, no end of the earth you can run, where God cannot find you. There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

Closing Hymn- “Sent Forth By Gods Blessings”

UMH-664

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour*)