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 - 11.1.2026
Lay Worship Leader Patty Ferrell

Words of Welcome & Announcements
Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)
Opening Prayer

"For All the Saints" **UMH- 711**

<u>Responsive Call to Worship</u> –

We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.
As we gather to remember the saints who formed us in the faith, we give thanks for their living witnesses to God's love, showing us that:
We belong to God, and through God, we live as family in Christ, bound together by Love.
We give thanks for the influence of the saints in our lives who demonstrated God's love and saving grace, so that we could know in our bones that:
We belong to God, and through God, we are saved to love one another.
Come, let us worship God who blesses us with witnesses to divine love that we may be witnesses of Love with everyone we meet.
We come to worship God who chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as witnesses of Love in communion with the saints of every age. Amen.
Passing the Peace of Christ (with hugs, handshakes, fist bumps, etc.)
Prayers of the People
LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE
Living God, our Guide and Guardian, who sits on the throne and delivers us into eternal life, we give you thanks for the saints whose witness has shaped our lives . Who now rest in the shelter of your embrace. As we remember those saints who have passed and entered into glory during the last twelve months, we remember their witness to your love and grace with joy and gratitude. We bless you for the life and love of these dear saints, and rejoice that they have entered into the fullness of life in your presence. We also remember those saints who we hold in our hearts who have not been with us for some time, yet whose life and witness continue to form and shape us as your disciples. We honor them now by lifting their in our hearts. On this All Saints Sunday, we remember

that we too are living saints, members of the family of God with all the saints of the past, the present, and the future. And so, we proclaim:
We are God's children, witnesses of God's word that is at work in us and in the saints who have gone before. Today and every day, may we put on Christ and live as saints who tend the poor, comfort the mourners, learn from the meek, affirm those who seek righteousness, offer mercy alongside the merciful, and work for peace with the peacemakers until Christ comes in final victory and we feast as the family of God at Christ's heavenly banquet. Amen.

(*Anyone who desires to light a candle in memory of a loved one is invited to as the Praise Team leads with **"Hymn of Heaven"***)**

****Children will be dismissed at this time****

Scripture Reading- **Matthew 23:1-12 (NRSV)**
23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, **2** "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses's seat; **3** therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. **4** They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,[a] and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. **5** They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. **6** They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues **7** and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. **8** But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. **9** And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. **10** Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. **11** The greatest among you will be your servant. **12** All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.
Leader: *This is the Word of our Lord*. People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: "The Greatest Among You Will Be Your Servant**" -Pastor Pablo Vargas**

Offering Prayer (everyone in unison): Eternal God, we give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us—those whose lives bore witness to your grace and whose faith still shapes the church we share today. As we remember them with gratitude, we offer these gifts as signs that their witness continues through us. Open our eyes to see your work in the world. Use our voices to give witness to what we have seen of your love and mercy.

Use these offerings to strengthen your church, that our lives may also become a testimony to your living Word at work among us. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Invitation to give Our Tithes and Offering (followed by the Doxology)

Prayer of Confession

Beloved, we are God's children now, but what we will be in the fullness of our time has not been revealed. What we do know is this: we will be like Jesus the Christ and saints of God. Let us consider how Jesus was revealed among us and pray to be more like the Christ in every way. Jesus embodied the unconditional love of God**…**
We pray, **may we be more like Jesus**.
Jesus fed those who were hungry**…**
We pray, **may we be more like Jesus**.
Jesus drew near to those living on the margins and excluded**…**
We pray, **may we be more like Jesus**.
Jesus brought healing and wholeness to those in need**…**
We pray, **may we be more like Jesus**.
Jesus hungered and thirsted for righteousness**…**
We pray, **may we be more like Jesus**.

Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus,
we can be sure that we are God's children now.
The Spirit of Christ is among us in this gathering,
and the nature of Christ is revealed within us.
We are becoming more and more like Christ each day,
Living witness to the good news of God's grace.
Therefore, let us live joyfully as God's people,
saints and instruments of God's way.

Communion

Closing Song "When the Saints Go Marching In" **Worship Bulletin Insert**

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour)*