

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Kingdomtide

Sunday, October 8, 2023, 10 am

We welcome all visitors today! Thank you for being here and gracing us with your presence. Please fill out the “*Visitation Card*” found in the pew and either place it in the offering plate or deposit into the *Suggestion Box* back in the narthex.

Prayer Candles are located back at the narthex for anyone who wants to light a candle for someone or something and offer it to God in prayer.

Children are invited to enjoy the resources in the **Children Learning Center** located at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Children are welcome to check out books and activity items to take home by signing the simple “*Check-out Sheet*” on clipboard there.

This Sunday is *Sunday School with Joan*

First, children will be in worship. Following the Special Music, the teacher, Joan Culbertson, will lead our children to the Nursery Room.

Today’s altar flowers are dedicated by Marieta Flores.

Words of Meditation

“Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all of us love poorly. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour – unceasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak – that is the human family.”

~ Henry Nouwen

“Forgiveness is a refusal to cast someone out of your heart.”

~ John Song

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude *There is a Balm in Gilead* Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church Rev. John Song

***Passing of Peace** (Wave to your neighbors around you with “**Peace of Christ be with you.**”)

***Centering Breath**

***Call to Worship** (Responsive) Bob Culbertson

Leader: Come to Christ, that living stone,
rejected by the world, but in God’s sight chosen and precious.

People: **We have responded to Christ’s call,
to follow the Way of Christ,
to be Christ’s presence on earth.**

Leader: Once we were lost people, but now we are God's people,
called out of the darkness into God's marvelous light.
Therefore we sing in praise the Church in all ages:

**People: Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer.
By your mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ into new life.**

***Gathering Song** *We Are Marching in the Light of God* FWS #2235-b (2X)

Children's Time **"Practicing Forgiveness"** Pastor John

Gospel Readings **Matthew 5:43-48** Bob Culbertson
Love Thy Enemies

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 18:21-22
How Many Times Do I Need to Forgive?

"Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music *Always on my Mind* Eden Edell
by Willie Nelson
River of Love
by Eden Edell

*Children may now leave for Sunday School with the teacher, Joan Culbertson.

Message **"Mystical Understanding of Forgiveness"** Dr. Peter Coster

Peter H. Coster, PhD, MDiv, LMFT is Relational Psychotherapist, Clinical Supervisor and the Executive Director for the Center for Psychotherapy, Spirituality and Creativity. Peter divides his time between Potter Valley, CA where he and his wife Kate have built a county home on 42 acres and the city of Sonoma where they live with their cat named Aribel.

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Almighty and merciful God,
we know that when we offend another, we offend you.
We are aware that we have often allowed the shadow of hate
to cloud our souls, hiding the light from our unseeking eyes.

We have said unpleasant and hurtful things to our brothers and sisters when they failed to live up to our expectations.
Grant that we might find that spark of love that ever burns within us, the love that you have shown to us even when we failed you.
Fan the embers of that love until it roars again in flames of love, peace, and reconciliation.
Forgive us our sin and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us.
Lead us into new life through your Son Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

***Hymn** *Change My Heart, O God* FWS 2152 (2x)

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Leader: Let us respond to this word of grace and hope by the giving of our tithes and offerings, which support the varied ministries of the Watsonville First United Methodist Church, mission at home and throughout the world.

Offertory *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder* Marina Thomas

***Hymn to the Trinity** *Gloria Patri* (Glory Be to the Father) #70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

We come before you, O Lord, dedicating our gifts and our lives in your service.
In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise.
Receive our pledges and the gifts of our hands, and use them to bring light to the darkness and hope to places of despair and suffering, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Recessional Song** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* FWS #2223

***Benediction** [*This ends the Live Streaming]

Prayers of the People

- a. Sharing of Joys & Concerns (Please raise your hand & mic will be given to you)
- b. Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer/Padre Nuestro (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Postlude *Stand up for Jesus* Marina Thomas

We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of Coffee,

refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.

Today's refreshments: Estioko/Abenoja Family

*If you want to bring Refreshments in the future
you can sign up on the clipboard in the narthex or see Marjorie Martinez.

Worship Leaders

Ministers	Each one of us
Guest Preacher	Dr. Peter Coster
Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Soloist	Eden Edell
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Bob Culbertson
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Communion Stewards	Marieta Flores, Laura Andrade Sorensen
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Estioko/Abenoja Family

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Oct. 8	10:00 am	Worship: Dr. Peter Coster preaching
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Min. Conversation with Dr. Peter Coster, St. Stephen's room
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Oct. 9	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Thu., Oct. 12	12:00 pm	UMW , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Oct. 15	10:00 am	Worship & Sunday School with Joan
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Min. Conversation with Pastor, St. Stephen's room
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Upcoming Opportunities!

30 Minute Conversation with Dr. Peter Coster
TODAY from 11:30 am – 12 noon, St. Stephen's room

Mental Health Workshop: Trauma & Relationships

Dr. Hanna Song & Mayra Bernabe
Sat. Oct 21, 10 am – 12 pm, St Stephen's room
FREE: All are welcome!

Blessing of Animals Sunday: Oct. 22, 10 am Worship Service

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

Email: office@watsonville1stumc.org | Phone: (831) 724-4434

Office Hours: Tue-Thu 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm (Closed for lunch 12-1 pm)

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