

# Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

## *Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door*

We are a publicly declared **Reconciling Congregation** and a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network that advocates and works for a truly all-inclusive church. As a Christian community, we lean in on radical inclusion welcoming to humans of all races, genders, and sexual orientations who are affirmed and accepted as a full participant in the life and work of this United Methodist congregation.

### **Our Vision**

*Tipping the world toward love and justice  
in alignment with God's deepest desire  
for our lives and all God's creation.*

## **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Sunday, February 4, 2024, 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.

### **Words of Meditation**

“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change.  
I am changing the things I cannot accept.”  
~ Angela Davis

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no evil to the neighbor.  
Hence love is the fulfillment of the Law.”  
~ Romans 13:8-10

“Learn and know the law very, very well,  
so you can break them appropriately in the service of love.”  
~ Dalai Lama

*\*(Please stand if you are able)*

**Prelude**

*Standing on the Promises*

Marina Thomas

**Bringing in the Light**

**Welcome & the Life of the Church**

Rev. John Song

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

## **\*Centering Breath**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Mark Sorensen

Leader: Lord, open our lips and we will proclaim your praise.

**People: We arise today, through God's strength to power us.**

Leader: God's way to set us on the right path

**People: God's loving gaze to affirm us**

Leader: God's ear to hear us

**People: God's wisdom to guide us**

Leader: God's shield to protect us

**People: God's hand to lift us when we fall**

Leader: God's grace to sustain us

All: **God's embrace to gather us as ONE. Amen.**

### **\*Gathering Song**

*God of the Ages*

#698 (vs, 1, 2, 4)

### **Children's Time**

**"Human Library"**

Pastor John

### **Epistle Readings**

**1 John 4:11-12, 16-21**

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>16</sup> God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

### **\*Gospel Readings**

**Matthew 5:17**

*The Fulfillment of the Law*

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;  
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

**John 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

<sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

**John 10:10**

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### **Message**

**Holy Disunity: What Separates Us Can Save Us**

Rev. John Song

Part 4) **"Legalistic Moral Religion or Life Flourishing Religion"**

**Celebration of Holy Communion / Celebración de la Santa Comunión**

The Lord be with you. / *El Señor sea con ustedes.* Laura Andrade Sorensen, Spanish reader  
**And also with you. / *Y también contigo.***

Lift up your hearts. / *Eleveamos los corazones.*

**We lift them up to the Lord. / *Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / *Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. / *Es justo darle gracias y alabanza.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you.

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(The Faith we Sing #2007, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”)**

**(The Faith We Sing #2007, “SANTO, SANTO, SANTO”)**

**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!**

**My heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord!**

***Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora!***

***Mi corazón te sabe decir: ¡Santo eres, Señor!***

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ. *Santo eres Tú, y bendito sea Jesucristo.*

As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

*Como María y José viajaron de Galilea hacia Belén y no encontraron albergue, así Jesús fue de Galilea a Jerusalén y fue despreciado y rechazado. Como Jesús nació en la pobreza de un establo, así por el bautismo de su sufrimiento, muerte y resurrección tu diste a luz a tu Iglesia, nos liberaste de la esclavitud al pecado y la muerte, e hizo un nuevo pacto por medio del agua y el Espíritu.*

As your Word became flesh, born of Mary, on that night long ago so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*Como tu Palabra se hizo carne, nació de María, en esa noche hace mucho tiempo, en la noche que se entregó por nosotros, tomó pan, dio gracias, lo partió y lo dio a sus discípulos diciendo:*

*“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

*“Tomen, coman; esto es mi cuerpo dado por ustedes. Hagan esto en memoria de mí”.*

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
*Después de la cena, tomó la copa, y después de haber dado gracias, la dio a sus discípulos, diciendo:*

*“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

*“Beban de ella, todos ustedes; ésta es mi sangre del nuevo pacto,  
derramada por ustedes y por muchos para el perdón de los pecados.  
Hagan esto todas las veces que la beben, en memoria de mí”.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*Y así, recordando tus actos poderosos en Cristo Jesús, nos ofrecemos en alabanza y agradecimiento como un sacrificio santo y vivo, en unión con la ofrenda de Cristo por nosotros, mientras proclamamos el misterio de la fe.*

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

***Cristo ha muerto; Cristo ha resucitado; Cristo vendrá de nuevo.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Creator, now and forever. Amen.

### **Sharing of the bread and the cup**

(The congregation is invited to come forward to share in communion of the bread and the cup.

The United Methodist Church practices open Communion. All are invited, including children, to come forward in the middle isle in two lines to receive the Communion. If you wish to receive the Communion at your seat, please raise your hand or ask one of the ushers.)

### **Se comparten el pan y la copa**

*(Se invita a la congregación compartir la comunión del pan y de la copa.)*

### **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**

*Healer of Broken Hearts*

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**

Accept our gifts from our hearts, O God, and dedicating our lives in tipping the world toward love by following the Way of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Recessional Song**      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*      #384

**\*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)

- a. 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.
- b. Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga tu reino; hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbanos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria por siempre. Amen

**Postlude**      *I Just Keep Trusting My Lord*      Marina Thomas

*We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of Coffee,  
refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.*

Today's refreshments: Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

\*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
Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgists	Mark Sorensen
Spanish Reader	Laura Andrade Sorensen
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	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

## Calendar for the Week

Sun., Feb. 4	10:00 am	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Feb. 5	1-3 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Feb. 7	4:30 pm	<b>Wed. Bible Study</b> , St. Stephen's room
Thu., Feb. 8	12:00 pm	<b>UMW Meeting</b> , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Feb. 11	10:00 am	<b>Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## *Opportunities!*

### *Souper Bowl of Caring*

The Super Bowl has become an American national holiday where families and friends gather to eat and watch the game. Unfortunately, not everyone is afforded this luxury due to food insecurity. On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 11, we'll have the ***Souper Bowl of Caring***. Our church will be collecting money and/or food donations next Sunday. All proceeds will go to our local Second Harvest Food Bank. (Please bring non-perishable food).

### **Ash Wednesday: February 14, 2024**

You can receive the imposition of Ashes by the pastor or office staff from **9:30 am** to **5:00 pm** outside the Pastor's office.

Church parking lot in the rear for your convenience.

*Remember "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

~ Genesis 3:19b

### **Weekly Wed. Bible Study!**

Every Wed. from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm, St. Stephen's room

We are studying the Gospel of Luke led by Pastor John.

Bring your Bible. Don't have one? We'll provide you.

*All are welcome!*

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*Baptism, Membership, Wedding, Funeral, and Pastoral Counseling are available*