



GILROY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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June 19, 2021

Dear Gilroy United Methodist Church,

After a lengthy period of time where our Sunday Worship has been done through YouTube (since March 15th, 2020), we have joyfully started our Hybrid (both YouTube & In-person) Sunday Worship as of April 11th, 2021. For ten Hybrid Worship Services, I have been so thankful to see many of our church members and friends, even mask-to-mask. I am always grateful to worship together at the same time via YouTube live-streaming, with those who are not comfortable yet to come to indoor worship. Your physical health and safety as well as your spirituality matter to me, because I am joyfully called to serve all of you as your pastor.

When I am appointed to both Gilroy UMC and Hollister UMC, starting on July 1st, I joyfully and actively say, "O Lord, Here am I; send me to anywhere this pastor is needed." After prayers and consideration, as I shared through my message of June 6th, I suggested that our Lay Leadership Team adjust our worship time, for me to serve both churches more effectively, as your pastor, and as the pastor of Hollister UMC. On Wednesday evening, June 16th, our Lay Leadership Team gathered, discussed, and made a difficult but brave decision: **Our New Sunday Worship Time will be at 9:00am, starting on Sunday, July 4th.** I also suggested that the Hollister UMC leadership council change their worship time, and they have also decided to do so. I know that this worship time change might be a difficult adjustment for some of our church members and friends. But as your pastor, I would like to worship together at both churches every Sunday, and the worship time change is unavoidable. Thankfully and courageously, our Lay Leadership Team accepted my suggestion.

Along with this worship time change, our worship will be changed **from Hybrid Worship to In-person Focused Worship, starting on July 4th, transitioning slowly but steadily.** A lot of our streaming equipment will be removed, but we will still broadcast our worship via YouTube live-streaming for those who are not comfortable yet with indoor worship, even if its quality will not be as good as that of our former Hybrid Worship.

Sometimes, this time of change or transition feels like a storm. But we have God as our anchor and our hope. "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain" (Hebrews 6:19) Amen!

Love & Peace,

Your Pastor, Hwapyoung Kang