

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday July 17, 2022 – 10:00am



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision
(Lani Smith)

Monica Adams, Piano

GATHERING MOMENT

Jeni Bonilla

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeni Bonilla

Leader: Lord, we are eager to serve others with our hands and feet.

People: However, we are easily burnt out and exhausted.

Leader: Lord, we love to do action, not just talk.

People: However, we are frustrated when we do not quickly see the fruits of our labor.

Leader: Lord, help us to have deep roots in you.

People: We want to serve you with lasting hope and joy.

All: Help us to have strong a foundation in your words and Grace. Give us a fountain of joy and peace inside of our souls.

OPENING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

UMH #102

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jennifer Robles

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED (10:00am)

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Jeni Bonilla

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Jeni Bonilla

Today we would like to invite everyone to write their name, email address, and cell number on the form in the red book located in the pew rack. Your name "introduces" you to others seated near you. Please read the names of those near you and greet them at the end of the service. The red book should be passed back to the center aisle seat.

PASSING THE PEACE (Please remain seated and greet those around you.)

Jeni Bonilla

All Sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (2x).*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Amos 8:1-12

Jeni Bonilla

This is what the Lord GOD showed me: a basket of summer fruit. He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day," says the Lord GOD; "the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!" Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt? On that day, says the Lord GOD, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day. The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

HYMN

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

UMH #349

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:15-28

Jeni Bonilla

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:38-42

Pastor Sungho Lee

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

SERMON

"There is Need of Only One Thing."

Pastor Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jeni Bonilla

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Sungho Lee

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.

THANKSGIVING**WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

Jeni Bonilla

OFFERTORY

Be Still My Soul
(Kevin Olson)

Monica Adams, Piano

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #94

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jeni Bonilla

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING HYMN

Wonderful Words of Life

UMH #600

***Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.***

Refrain:

***Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.***

***Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. (Refrain)***

***Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. (Refrain)***

BENEDICTION

Pastor Sungho Lee

POSTLUDE

Toccata on St. Anne
(Gordon Young)

Monica Adams, Organ

ALTAR FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

The altar flowers are given by Al and Jeri Fields in memory of Peggy Borton.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Sungho Lee
Jeni Bonilla, Worship Leader
Ric Campero, Director of Music
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
Jennifer Robles, Children's Moment
David Campero, Media
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
Rupert Cooper, Audio

PRAYER CARDS AND CANDLES

Prayer requests can be submitted on the prayer cards in the pew racks at church. These prayer requests are collected by the ushers near the beginning of the service.

The prayer candles will return to the Narthex on Sunday, July 24. The candles are there if you would like to offer up a prayer by lighting a candle before or after the worship service.

PASTOR LEE'S SUMMER BIBLE CHALLENGE

Join Pastor Lee's Summer Bible Challenge today. You will read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John at your own pace from July 17-August 14. Each week Pastor Lee will send you three questions on which to meditate. Sign up at the Information table or email Pastor Lee (slee@cumcstockton.org). Everyone who participates will receive an email list with the email addresses of everyone who is participating. If you wish you can create your own online or in-person discussion groups. If you are interested, sign up today!

HOST A MEET AND GREET

Alan is still looking for Meet and Greet hosts for any day between July 31-August 14, except Mondays. You might like to host a gathering at your home, at church in the Fireside Room or Room 6, at a park, at a restaurant, or any place you would like. You decide the date and time, and how many people to attend. Sign up at the information table or email Alan (acook@cumcstockton.org) with the details.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you are interested in being a member of this wonderful church, Sign up at the Information table or email Pastor Lee (slee@cumcstockton.org). The membership class will meet four times during the month of August with Pastor Lee. Together you will learn about our church history, its mission and ministry. After the four classes you will decide whether you want to join our church or not. Time and place of the meeting will depend on who signs up for the class.

SERMON IN A NUTSHELL

PASTOR LEE

"You need to worry about only one thing" (Luke 10:38-42)

Do you want a dog or a dog bowl?

There was an antique dealer. When he walked around in a small town in a rural area, he spotted a dog bowl which was a valuable antique bowl. He approached the dog owner. "I want to buy your dog, such a cute boy!" The owner asked a high price. The antique dealer agreed to pay the price. Then he said, "Would you mind giving me the dog bowl also?" The owner replied. "No! I was able to sell ten dogs this year because of that bowl!"

I love the owner and his sales tactic. He knew that many people came to get the bowl, but they did not want to pay the right price for the bowl. They just bought a dog and tried to get the bowl for free! What do you want really? Jesus said, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33) Do you want to enjoy the Kingdom of God and its righteousness or all these other things? We cannot have both at the same time. We need to prioritize our values. Which one comes first?

At the Home of Martha and Mary, Mary took time with Jesus first.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

We will choose our priorities in life. God will honor our choice. It is not up to God, but up to us what we do first in our life. Jesus said that we need to prepare dinner and welcome our guest. However, if you want to spend time with God first, your time for a relationship with God will not be taken away by God.

First things first.

You all know Stephen Kobey and his book, "First Things First." He has learned that great people always spend time for "important but not urgent" things. Losers always spend time for things "not important and not urgent." Average people spend time for "urgent things" whether they are important or not.

Meditation on the Bible, prayer, caring for others, and worship are important things for a relationship with God. However, they are not urgent. Great people invest their time in these things. Average people do not pay attention to these things because there are many urgent things to do at school, at home, and at work. Still, they come to church for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Losers do not spend time on these things at all. They have time for (name **them here**). Depending on our choices we will have different harvests in life.

When we repeat our choices, our choices will be ripe someday and bear fruits.

In the Amos reading today, the Lord showed Amos a basket of ripe fruit. Then the Lord said to Amos, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."

This is what God said, "Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying, 'When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?'—skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat."

When we repeat the same action over and over, it becomes a habit. When we keep our habits, they will decide our fate. Now, Israel kept repeating social and economic injustices. They became social norms and customs. These injustices then decide the fate of the nation. God said, "I will never forget anything they have done. God did not have to judge them. They will just reap what they sow." God reminded them of this universal principle of action and consequences: "Will not the land tremble for this, and all who live in it mourn? The whole land will rise like the Nile; it will be stirred up and then sink like the river of Egypt."

Prophecy is scientific prediction.

Many people misunderstood prophecy as fortune telling. In the Bible, prophecy is more like scientific prediction. Everybody knows that when you drink too much your liver will be harmed. I can even tell you that if you keep smoking, you will have a 70% chance of having a lung cancer sooner or later. Biblical prophecy is like that.

Now Listen. "In that day," declares the Sovereign Lord, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your religious festivals into mourning and all your singing into weeping. I will make all of you wear sackcloth and shave your heads. I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day."

We experienced this type happenings during COVID-19, wildfire season, and climate changes. A town called Paradise was burnt down and people were dispersed. Paradise UMC is empty now. Many churches lost lives through COVID-19. We still have to figure out how to be good stewards of God's creation!

There will be famine of hearing the words of the Lord.

The more serious problem that God sees is the famine of the words of the Lord. People do not want to read the Bible, do not want to listen to the prophecies. They just want to speak out what they want and demand it. When God's words are against their desires, they ignore them and discard them as ancient words that are not relevant to the lifestyles of modern people!

"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it."

In this situation, if someone tries to read the Bible and meditate on it, people would say, "Do not waste your time. Get busy! Earn some money!" They would not support any activity that would not bring profits to the house. Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

For Martha and Mary, it was a matter of preference. For us, it is a matter of choosing our master whom we serve.

The Supremacy of the Son of God

To make a right choice between money and God, we have to have faith in Jesus. We first have to know who Jesus our Lord is. Paul says, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

Do you have the same faith in Jesus Christ our Lord?

I served in the Korean Army when I was a young man in Korea. When I was a private, one day a two-star General came to see me. I was frozen. I stood at attention and answered all his questions with the loudest voice I could make. Because I knew who he was, I acted differently.

When I think about that experience, I am wondering whether we treat Jesus as our Lord or not. When Paul believes that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God" and "firstborn over all creation," he is willing to give everything up for the Lord and for the people of God.

Paul's Labor for the Church

This is what he confesses. "Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church."

He says that he has "become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations but is now disclosed to the Lord's people."

Paul wants to make all the disciples mature in faith. "To this end," he says, "I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me."

The missions and ministries are the fruits of faith.

Many people say that talk is cheap, and action is noble. However, talk is the starting point. Somebody has to talk about the situation of the homeless. Then people pray about it. They act on it. That is why Mary sat down and listened to Jesus's talk first. Then she meditated about it. Then she became matured in her faith and confessed that Jesus was the Lord. From that confession, her action started.

Many times, people started missions without faith in Jesus. They do all they can with all their time, talents, and treasure. Then they become exhausted and burnt out. They become angry, saying, "Why others do not serve, give, and do as much as I do?" Then they quit with bitterness. I have seen so many Christians who started good works and left church all together with sour feeling.

However, when people start with faith in Jesus they do not give up. We saw Paul in the Bible. He was happy in prison. He even says, "Rejoice always!" in prison. We know John Wesley in our tradition. When he started his mission with his own passion, he failed miserably. He came to Savannah, Georgia as a missionary. He failed and ran away from there back to England. Only when he experienced heartwarming conversion, he worked without regrets and exhaustion. At the end, he said, "The best of all is, God is with us."

During this summer, read the Bible and meditate on it.

Brothers and sisters! I suggest that we should read the Bible and meditate on it. Share your insight in small groups. Plan mission and ministry among small group members. Trees with deep roots will endure drought and floods. Make this summertime a time for maturity. Sign up for the Summer Bible Challenge. Find a group who want to share their insights together. We will find meaningful mission and ministry together when we go through the process step by step. Do not look for fruits from a seed. First, plant it. Water it. Let it grow. Wait for many years. We will have wonderful fruits in God's time. I believe that we will have another Paul and another Wesley among us. May God be glorified through us! Amen!