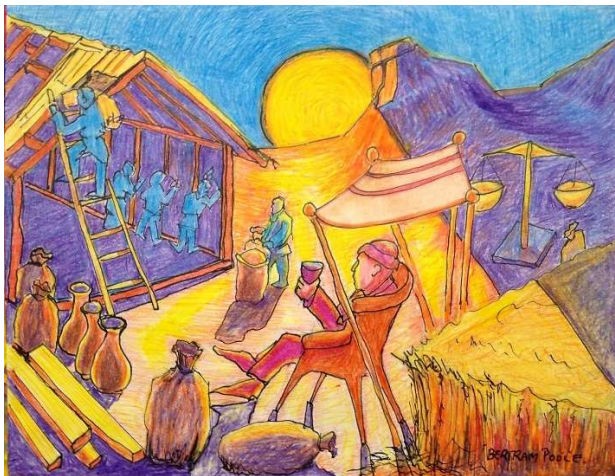


Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday July 31, 2022 – 10:00am



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
(L. Smith)

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Becky Cameron

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Becky Cameron

Leader: Lord, we confess that we are mortals.

All: Lord, thank you for the promise of eternal life.

Leader: Lord, help us to see your Kingdom beyond our daily challenges.

All: We will work faithfully in this world with the hope of your Kingdom.

Leader: Lord, help us to see ourselves beyond our bodily images.

All: We want to see ourselves as you see us.

Leader: Lord, help us to be blessings to those around us.

All: We want to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with you! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us

UMH #100

*God, whose love is reigning o'er us, source of all, the ending true;
Hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.*

*Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn gold;
Mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves thunder bold:
Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.*

*Holy God of ancient glory, choosing man and woman too;
Abram's faith and Sarah's story formed a people bound to you.
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.*

*Covenant, new again in Jesus, Starchild born to set us free;
Sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love's children we might be.
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he!*

*Lift we then our human voices in the songs that faith would bring;
Live we then in human choices lives that, like our music sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Elizabeth Wehrs

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED (10:00am)

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Becky Cameron

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Becky Cameron

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** (Stand, bow or wave, with the word, "Peace be with You!")
All Sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (2x).*

Becky Cameron

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Hosea 11:1-11

Nedy Tovera

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities; it consumes their oracle priests and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim, for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. They shall go after the LORD, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

UMH #126

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.*

*The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.*

*Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.*

*Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.*

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:1-11

Nedy Tovera

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Leader: Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:13-21

Pastor Sungho Lee

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Leader: Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Whose will the Riches Be?"

Pastor Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Becky Cameron

After a concern, we will say, "Lord, hear our prayers!"

After a joy, we will say, "Lord, we give thanks!"

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

Becky Cameron

OFFERTORY

Beach Spring
(Phillip Young)

Monica Adams

*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

Becky Cameron

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH #140

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]*

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Sungho Lee

***POSTLUDE**

Postlude in Classic Style
(G. Young)

Monica Adams

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Sungho Lee
Becky Cameron, Worship Leader
Nedy Tovera, Liturgist
Ric Campero, Director of Music
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
Elizabeth Wehrs, Children's Moment
David Campero, Media
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
Rupert Cooper, Audio

Meet and Greet Gatherings

There is still time to sign up for the Meet and Greet on August 4 at Octavio's. This hosted lunch is at 1.00pm. Don and JoAnn Smiley will be your hosts for the day. Let Alan Cook know that you would like to attend today. You may also sign up at the Information Table. Space is limited contact Alan immediately.

Lyndon Low is hosting a Zoom Meet and Greet on August 10 at 7.00pm. If you have not been able to attend an in-person gathering here is a great opportunity. We also know that we have worshippers who join us on Sundays on-line who are not able to attend in person. This is a perfect opportunity to meet Pastor Sungho in a Zoom setting. Email Alan Cook at acook@cumcstockton.org or sign up on Sunday. The Zoom information will be sent to you after you have signed up.

A Special Event

Plan to attend *Nothing but Musicals* Sunday, August 14 at 12.15pm. in the Fellowship Hall. The brunch part of this afternoon fundraiser will be prepared by the members of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship. While you are enjoying scrambled eggs, ham, muffins, waffles and pancakes, fruit salad and a few other dishes you will have the opportunity to hear members of our choir sing songs from your favorite musicals.

Funds raised for this event will be divided between the Gary Putnam Music Enrichment Fund (this fund underwrites special music during services in the Sanctuary) and the Summer Youth Camping Experiences. Next year our youth will have the opportunity to go to Sierra Service Project and or Rock n Water. Funds raised from *Nothing but Musicals* will go to underwriting these amazing experiences.

If you would like to help purchase food items or prepare the egg casserole, contact Alan Cook (acook@cumcstockton.org).

Stop by the reservation table this Sunday and reserve your space. The suggested donation is \$20 but all donations are welcome.

Sunday, August 14

We love the opportunity to start the school year off with a blessing for a great school year.

During the 11.00am service on August 14 all students are invited to bring their backpack to the service.

During the Children's Moment the students will receive a special blessing. Godly Play will also resume that day.

SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "WHOSE WILL THE RICHES BE?"

What happens when a person passes away?

It depends on the culture of the family. I have encountered many different situations in my ministry. Some families fought over the inheritance of the deceased. Some families planned memorial worship services with pastors and friends. Some families did not know what to do.

The first phone call that I received from the Central family was a call from Olive. She wanted to plan a memorial service for her late husband. She shared with me her life stories and the stories of her late husband. The first office visit that I had was with Kathy who wanted to prepare a memorial service for her sister, Judy. Both of them focused on their spiritual journeys, not on the money and inheritance.

What is your priority in your life?

Our actions show our priorities in our lives. When we value money first, we fight over the inheritance of the deceased. When we value our relationship with God, we examine our relationship with our neighbors which reflects on our relationship with God.

In the Gospel lesson for today (Luke 12:13-21) Jesus told a story of a rich fool. Maybe a man passed away and two surviving sons fought over the inheritance of the father.

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

And he told them this parable: The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

An example of a rich fool in history.

Hosea shares a story of a rich fool also. It is the history of a nation, but Hosea told the story as if Israel was a person. When Israel was born and young, God took care of the nation.

Israel means “Wrestle with God.” They actually wrestled against God!

When Israel was young, he was cared by God.

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.”

Baal was the god of fertility in the land of Canaan. They worshipped Baal for rich crops. Baal promised abundant production. In other words, the Israel preferred the god of fertility to the God of Forgiveness.

In Baal worship, you have a feast and sexual activity with “temple prostitutes” to wish abundant products. In YHWH worship, you kill animals and shed their blood on the altar to remind you of your sins and God’s forgiveness. The former makes you drunken and excited, and the latter awakens your conscience and keeps you out of trouble. Which worship would young men prefer?

When Israel became a teenager, Israel acted as if he knew everything and rebelled against God. Then he reaped what he planted.

“Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans.”

God explored, saying, “My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.”

Israel’s Sin

What is Sin in the Bible? Sin is loving other creatures more than God. Sin in the Bible means to worship things other than God. Many times, they are money, power, and sex or representatives of them.

When you marry a person whom you love, and the person happens to be rich and powerful, your love is still genuine. However, if you marry a person to share the money and the power that the person has, your love is fake love. To prevent that, some people have a prenuptial agreement. Some people suggest the premarital agreement to show that they do not have any interest in the assets that the other party has.

God trusted Israel and did not have a prenuptial agreement. Then God has regrets. “Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, Israel with deceit. And Judah is unruly against God, even against the faithful Holy One.”

Worshipping other things than God is cheating. God wants divorce. When God walks away from us, we do not have ultimate protection. That was how Israel was wiped out from the map.

God’s Grace

If that is the end of the story, we do not experience God’s grace. God has this conflicting heart. “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim?”

Admah and Zeboiim are two cities nearby Sodom and Gomorrah. In Genesis 14:2–3 the kings of Admah and Zeboiim are a part of an alliance against the king of Elam who had subjugated them (Genesis 14:1). During the conflict, Sodom was defeated, Lot and his family were taken away, and Abram rescued him (Genesis 14:13–16). In other words, they are cities that were going after riches and destroyed by stronger enemies.

When God says, “How can I leave them like Admah and Zeboim?” God wants to restore the relationship with Israel. When people choose a way of life that destroys them, God cries out.

“My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion.

When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes,” declares the Lord.

Finally, God decided to send his only begotten son, Jesus, to us to build a bridge between God and us, new Israel. For that purpose, Jesus died on the Cross and paid the price of betrayal. Now the door to God’s Kingdom is wide open. Anybody who believes in Jesus can walk to God and accept the offer that God has given. We can become children of God. When God resurrected Jesus from the dead, we were also resurrected with Jesus.

We have been resurrected with Jesus to do God’s work!

Now we have different identities. We are not just helpless sinners. We are sinners redeemed by the blood of Jesus. We are children of God and co-heirs of God’s Kingdom. With such identity, we decide what to do with our lives. Colossians 3:1-11 says, “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

At a Meet and Greet Gathering, I met Judy. She had a near death experience in her 20s. When she came back to life, she chose the career of special education for mentally challenged children. She has served them more than 30 years and retired. Her favorite place was a prison. She taught those young teenagers with mental challenges. She confessed that God brought her back to life to give such calling to her. She saw white light but did not see other things. She heard a voice saying, “We cannot show you heaven yet because you will go back and do some works!” That work has been special education for mentally challenged children.

We are the blessings for the people around us.

How can Judy take such challenging work with joy for such a long time? Paul explains it in the Colossians in this way. “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”

Our old self died in Christ. Everyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

Paul says, “Because of these earthly natures, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”

Our ethics are formed by our values, identities, and purposes in life. We act in certain ways because we believe that God is our Father and Creator, Jesus is our Savior and Lord, and the Holy Spirit guides us and counsels us. When we follow the words of God, examples of Jesus, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we can overcome our desires that belong to this world.

Let us be wise disciples, not the rich fools! Amen.