

# Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

## ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday August 14, 2022



### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

*Aria*  
(Paul Manz)

Monica Adams

#### GATHERING MOMENT

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)  
Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)  
Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

Leader: Lord, help us to discern the right direction in our life.

**All: Show us your ways in all the decisions we make.**

Leader: Lord, help us to be patient when our progress is slow.

**All: We will continue our journey one step at a time.**

Leader: Lord, help us to trust you when we cannot see at all.

**All: Your words are a lamp unto my feet, and light upon my path.**

**Lift us up when we fall, hold our hands when we stumble, and walk with us to the end.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

UMH #64

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00am)

Alan Cook

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Alan Cook

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*People Need the Lord*  
(Steven Green)

Ric Campero, Tenor

**PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED (11:00am)**

**MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT**

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)  
Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

**RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)  
Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

(11:00am) 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!”) Gloria Fearn (8:30am)  
**All Sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (2x).*** Nedy Tovera (10:00am)

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 5:1-7

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)  
Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN**

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*

UMH #528

***Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!***

*Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down, darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*There let the way appear, steps unto heaven; all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;  
angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise, out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;  
so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky, sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,  
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

**SCRIPTURE**

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)

Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 12:49-56

Pastor Sungho Lee

“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

"Interpret the Times!"

Pastor Sungho Lee

**QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME (8:30am)**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

After a joy, we will say, “Lord, we give thanks!”

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)

Nedy Tovera (10:00am)

**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**

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)

Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

**OFFERTORY**

*Gabriel’s Oboe*  
(E. Morricone)

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**

Gloria Fearn (8:30am)

Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

## SENDING FORTH

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Grace Alone*

TFWS #2162

*Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,  
every difference we will make is only by his grace.*

*Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,  
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.*

### **Refrain**

*Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.  
Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.*

*Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,  
every where we share his peace is only by his grace.*

*Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away,  
every sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace. (Refrain)*

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Sungho Lee

\*POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign  
(Anna Laura Page)

Monica Adams

## FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Martha Shuemake in celebration of Jacob and Andrea's wedding on August 12, 2020 and August 12, 2022!

\* Indicates please stand as you are able.

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## SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Sungho Lee  
Gloria Fearn, Worship Leader, 8:30am  
Nedy Tovera, Worship Leader, 11:00am  
Ric Campero, Director of Music  
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist  
Alan Cook, Children's Moment  
David Campero, Media  
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator  
Rupert Cooper, Audio

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## **NOTHING BUT MUSICALS & MORE**

Join us after church TODAY for a wonderful production of **Nothing but Musicals & More** which will include a **delicious brunch** (nothing better than food and music)!

Plan on hearing music from great musicals including: *The Sound of Music*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Hamilton*, *West Side Story*, the musical film *Yes, Giorgio*, and more, featuring Jennifer Alcover, Dianne England, Zack Alcover, Ric Campero, and more including our wonderful church organist/pianist Monica Adams.

Suggested donation \$10-\$20 or more if you wish. Proceeds will benefit the Putnam Music Enrichment Fund and the Youth Summer Experiences.

## **SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18!**

Autumn at Central returns to the Central campus! Quilts will be hung throughout the campus, Storytelling and Jazz will be featured at the 8.30am and 11.00am worship services.

There will be an apple tasting, several craft booths, a bake sale, and food trucks.

### **Volunteers are needed to:**

- Obtain quilts from members of our church community and the greater Stockton community
- To set up
- Hang quilts
- Work with food trucks
- Coordinate the apple tasting
- Obtain crafters
- Coordinate the bake sale
- Bake items

If you are interested in helping contact Alan Cook ([acook@cumcstockton.org](mailto:acook@cumcstockton.org))

## **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](mailto: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's 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.

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## **“INTERPRET THE TIMES!”**

### **Why did Rahab, a prostitute, welcome the spies?**

In Hebrews 11:29-12:2 we read, “By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.”

We know Moses and Joshua. They were great leaders who were called by God and led God's people. However, Rahab was a prostitute (one strike). She was not even an Israelite (two strikes). She was a woman (three strikes!). At that time, these three conditions would be called "Three Strikes, You're Out." Then God used her as an agent of God's blessing, and Hebrews mentioned her as one of the role models for our faith journey at the same level with Moses and Joshua.

**Rahab interpreted the times correctly.**

How did Rahab make her way up there? The answer is that Rahab interpreted the times correctly. Rahab said, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." In other words, Rahab heard what God had done and knew that the Israelites would take the land of Canaan.

However, "the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon—joined forces and moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and Joshua" (Joshua 10:5). Those five kings also heard the same stories and the stories of Jericho, Ai, and Gibeon. Still, they did not know how to interpret the times. They decided to fight against Joshua's army, and they were defeated completely.

Joshua 10 reported, saying, "Now the five kings had fled and hidden in the cave at Makkedah...So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely...The whole army then returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah, and no one uttered a word against the Israelites."

Rahab and her family survived because they interpret the times correctly. Five kings of Canaan were defeated completely because they could not interpret the times rightly. How do you interpret our times?

**When we know the direction, we can continue our walk.**

In life, direction is more important than speed. Once we know that the direction is right, we can wait and walk continually. If we are not sure about the direction, going fast is a disaster. We may have to take U-turns and sharp turns here and there. In this case, it would not be a bad option to take time to rest and pause to discern God's will in life.

Hebrews advises us, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

**The problem of the Israel was taking a wrong direction.**

Isiah 5:1-7 sings a love song, a song of a failed love. It is called a vineyard song.

"I will sing for the one I love/a song about his vineyard:/My loved one had a vineyard/on a fertile hillside.

He dug it up and cleared it of stones/and planted it with the choicest vines./He built a watchtower in it/and cut out a winepress as well./Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,/but it yielded only bad fruit./“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,/judge between me and my vineyard./What more could have been done for my vineyard/than I have done for it?/When I looked for good grapes,/why did it yield only bad?/Now I will tell you/what I am going to do to my vineyard:/I will take away its hedge,/and it will be destroyed;/I will break down its wall,/and it will be trampled./I will make it a wasteland,/neither pruned nor cultivated,/and briers and thorns will grow there./I will command the clouds/not to rain on it.”

**Isaiah concludes his song with this indictment.**

“The vineyard of the Lord Almighty/is the nation of Israel/and the people of Judah/are the vines he delighted in./And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;/for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.”

How much of these charges are applied to our nation? Do you have any examples of this indictment in our modern history of our nation? “God looks for justice but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.” For example, we saw how the life of George Floyd passed away. His life matters.

When we hear Black Lives Matter, some say that All Lives Matter or Blue Lives Matter. They are all saying the same thing. We call this syllogism, one of the basic logics of thinking.

**Major Premise:** All Lives Matter

**Minor Premise:** Black Lives are Lives. (Blue Lives are Lives)

**Conclusion:** Therefore, Black Lives Matter. (Blue Lives Matter)

If you agree that “All Lives Matter,” your logical conclusion should be “Black Lives Matter” when you believe that Black Lives are Lives. The only way to deny BLM is to deny the fact that Black Lives are Lives. In other words, when you say that Black Lives are NOT Lives, you would say Black lives DO NOT matter.

So, the key point here is whether you accept Black Lives are Lives or Not. When we accept that Blue Lives are Lives, yes Blue Lives matter. When we accept that Black Lives are Lives, yes, Black Lives Matter. When we do not accept that Black Lives are Lives, we call that Racism. When we do not accept Women Lives are Lives, we call that Sexism. When we treat poor people or working class as Non-humans, it is Classism. History moves from a small number of Lives to a larger and larger categories of Lives.

**God wants to save All Lives.**

In Luke 12:49-56, Jesus said, “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Why did Jesus say such harsh words? Because some people deny that some lives are not lives, there will be divisions among family members. Some people in the family want to enlarge the circle to



embrace left-out groups into human category. This attitude causes division. So, do not be alarmed when you see divisions in our nation. The only important issue is to choose the right direction. In this time of division, we have to interpret the times correctly and take God's side.

### **Interpreting the Times**

Jesus said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

Let us see whether we can interpret the times. What comes after 2, 4, 6, and 8? It is 10. Then what comes after 3, 6, 9, and 12? Yes, it is 15. We all have reasoning ability. When we know the direction, we can tell what comes next. With the Declaration of Independence, we overcame Imperialism. With the Emancipation Declaration, we fought against Racism. With the Women's Suffrage Movement, we took one more step against Sexism.

When I read three books recommended by our church book club, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *A Man from Moscow*, and *Delicious*, I found one common thing. In all three books, a woman kills a man. I do not know who selected those books and whether she had specific intention to find those books or not. (I want to know if the person is a woman or not. I have to warn her husband to behave!) When I shared my findings with groups of women, they pointed out the Sexism they experienced, and explained why women had to kill men in those books! We all laughed.

### **We can take one more step at a time in the right direction.**

Once we know the direction, we should expect conflicts and conflict resolution. It would be different for each one of us because we are all walking at a different pace and are at different stations in our faith journey. Some of us are still struggling and overcoming racism. One of my colleagues said to me that he was a "recovering racist." I appreciate his honesty and integrity. I am a recovering sexist. There are so many things that I take for granted as a man. My wife has to point out details for me to realize that it is a sexist idea. Some of us still have to deal with classism and imperialism whether we realize it or not. I am not going to make a diagnosis either personally or nationally. I am not in that position. When we pray, however, we will hear God's voice for each one of us. Let us take one more step forward at a time. It does not matter how fast we go. Someday, like rivers of many sizes, we will all meet together in the Kingdom of God! Amen.