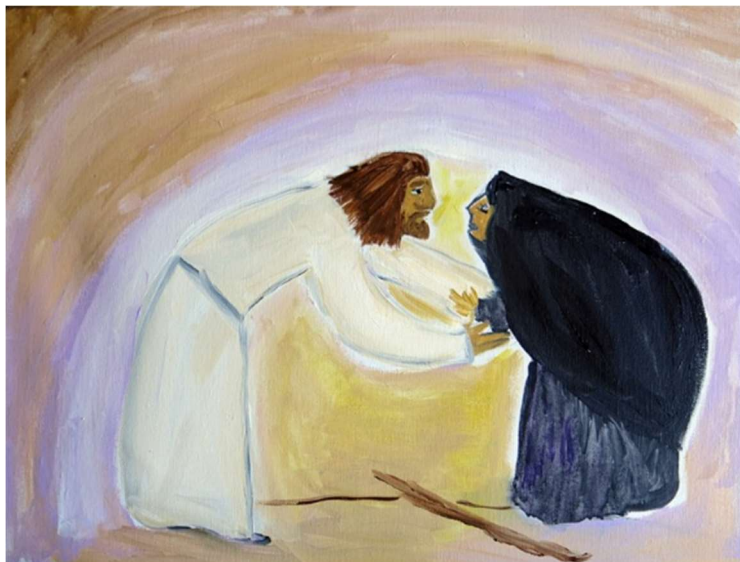


# Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

## ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday August 21, 2022



### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

*Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him*  
(L. Smith)

Monica Adams

#### GATHERING MOMENT

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Alan England (11:00am)

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Alan England (11:00am)

Leader: Lord, people say to us that we cannot be here.

**All: We are here because you invite us here.**

Leader: Lord, people say to us that it is not good time now.

**All: We are here because you command us to come here now.**

Leader: Lord, people say that we are not good enough.

**All: We heard your voice saying, "You are my child and I am pleased with you."**

**Free us from all bondages and ailment. We want to sing your songs together!**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*How Great Thou Art*

UMH #77

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

Jeni Bonilla

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

#### MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Alan England (11:00am)

**RECOGNITION OF THE BIBLE READERS**

Kathy Baldauf  
 Dave Bennett  
 Jackie Bennett  
 John Bradbury  
 Jane Cook  
 Ginger Jacobs  
 Mary Jaurez Dalton  
 Karen Davis

Xerex Espinoza  
 Gloria Fearn  
 Signe Holly  
 Cherie Hudson  
 Shirley Law  
 Rachelle Mimms  
 Linda Newhall  
 Diane Park

Pastor Sungho Lee  
 Jennifer Robles  
 Paul Rotendo  
 Lani Schiff-Ross  
 Jamie Spaulding  
 Martha Tipton  
 Linda Tualla  
 Walt Wager  
 Carol Willson

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

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
 Alan England (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!”)

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

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
 Alan England (11:00am)

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE****SCRIPTURE**

Jeremiah 1:4-9 (Blue Bible page 698)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
 Alan England (11:00am)

**\*HYMN**

*Lord of the Dance*

UMH #261

**SCRIPTURE**

Hebrews 11:18-29 (Blue Bible page 226)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
 Alan England (11:00am)

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 13:10-17 (Blue Bible page 76)

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Sungho Lee

**SERMON**

"You are Set Free from Your Ailment"

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!”

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
 Alan England (11:00am)

**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

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Alan England (11:00am)

#### OFFERTORY

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
(L. Smith)

Monica Adams

#### \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH #94

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Alan England (11:00am)

### SENDING FORTH

#### \*CLOSING HYMN

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

TFWS #2051

#### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor Sungho Lee

#### \*POSTLUDE

*God of Grace and God of Glory*  
(Walter Pelz)

Monica Adams

#### FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Carol Willson in celebration of their family summer birthdays for Randy, Carol, Sarah, and Kenny.

\* Indicates please stand as you are able.

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### SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Sungho Lee  
Alexis Easton, Worship Leader, 8:30am  
Alan England, Worship Leader, 11:00am  
Jennifer Alcover, Hymn Leader  
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist  
Jeni Bonilla, Children's Moment  
David Campero, Media  
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator  
Rupert Cooper, Audio

## **PACIFIC BARBEQUE**

Forty-nine years ago, I arrived in Stockton to attend the University of the Pacific. I moved into Grace Covell Hall and on my first Sunday in Stockton, I attended a worship service in our sanctuary. The following Sunday United Methodist students were invited to attend a barbeque at Les and Marie Medford's backyard. A large group of us went and had a great time. Some lasting friendships were formed at this initial event.

Robbie Fredericksen restarted this tradition, and it was held his first two years at Central. The exciting news is that this tradition returns to Central Tuesday, August 30, in our Central Park from 5.00pm to 6.30pm. We are joining with the Pacific Religious and Spiritual Life Department at Pacific in hosting what we are calling an Interfaith BBQ to kick off the 2022-23 Pacific school year. ~ Alan Cook

Volunteers are needed to make this BBQ a SUCCESS!

- Volunteers are needed to work in the kitchen from 3.00pm-5.00pm. If you volunteer you will be helping to make a fruit salad, green salad, and preparing other food.
- Volunteers are needed to bake cookies and bring them to the kitchen from 2.00pm-3.00pm
- Two people are needed to make sure the barbeque grills are working and will barbeque starting at 5.15pm.
- Several people are needed to set up 3.30pm-4.30pm.
- People are needed to help serve and act as Central hosts from 4.30-6.00pm
- And of course, we need volunteers to help clean up. 6.00pm-7.00pm

Please let Alan Cook know immediately what you can do to help by email at [acook@cumcstockton.org](mailto:acook@cumcstockton.org) or by signing up this Sunday. Invite a friend. All ages can help on this project. It will take a Central village to host this event.

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## **AUTUMN@CENTRAL RETURNS TO THE CENTRAL CAMPUS ON SEPTEMBER 18**

Renowned Jewish storyteller Joel ben Izzy, local jazz musicians and worship leader Alan Cook weave storytelling, jazz, and prayer together to create two unforgettable worship experiences for all ages. (8.30am and 11.00am). Joel was our featured storyteller at the 2019 Autumn@Central

Jazz musicians will perform during the 8.30am and 11.00am services.

## **Quilting on the Central Campus**

This beautiful free outdoor art show on the Central campus will feature over 60 quilts. This year's show is in memory of JD McCain who was instrumental in helping to put this show on for the years. The Central campus will be transformed into beautiful outdoor art galleries. Each gallery will feature quilts made by members of our community. The beauty of the quilts hanging between trees and blowing gently in the breeze is a lovely sight. The quilts are on display from 9.30am-1.30pm.

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## **SUNGHO IS TAKING VACATION**

Sungho will be on vacation from August 30 through September 17. Our guest ministers will be Alexis Easton on September 4 and Dave Bennett on September 11. September 18 will be Autumn@Central with storyteller Joel ben Izzy.

## **“YOU ARE SET FREE FROM YOUR AILMENT!” (LUKE 13:10-17)**

### **Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath**

In the Gospel reading we see three actors: Jesus, a woman who had been crippled by a spirit for 18 years, and the synagogue leader. When Jesus saw the woman, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Then, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

Jesus was a healer. Jesus spoke the words of healing and took an action to cure her.

The woman was healed. She not only straightened up but also praised God. She was completely healed. Her body and spirit were both cured. She could have praised God in her physical condition with ailment. There are many people like that. However, in her case, she must have been depressed because of her physical condition. Now she praised God. Her physical cure helped her to restore her spirit and she was healed.

However, there was a man who was not healed. The synagogue leader was physically fine. He was not physically ill, but he was sick. When a woman who suffered her physical condition for 18 years was cured, a normal person would be cheerful and praise God! Don’t you think so?

### **What kind of person would be mad when someone else is cured?**

Hypocrites will be mad and angry when someone else is cured. Jesus said, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

Hypocrites pretend that they care for law and order. However, they actually care for their security. They use law and order to maintain status quo which supports their current well-being and power position. When a man says to a woman, “Keep quiet! Women should not talk in public! That is the law!” he does not care for law and order. He tries to maintain his privilege as a man in a sexist community.

When a Methodist woman missionary, Mrs. Scranton, came to Korea she started a school in Korea. However, she could not find students. All the rich and powerful families believed that educated girls would cause trouble and they did not send their girls to schools. Mrs. Scranton had to find students in the street. Her first four students were orphans. Now her school has become the world largest women’s university, Ehwa Women’s University, in Seoul. My wife is a proud graduate of that school.

I read the books by Sujata Massey, *The Widows of Malabar Hill*, and *The Satapur Moonstone*. The sexism in India was not that different in ancient Korea. It was only brave women who brought changes in those societies. They had to struggle with men who tried to keep the status quo using law and order.

The synagogue leader did not care about Sabbath Law. He wanted to protect the status quo. He taught people that when they violated laws of God, the nation was destroyed, and the only way to restore their nation by God’s grace was to obey the laws. Because the Temple was destroyed, Herod tried to reconstruct the Temple to keep all the Temple laws. In the meantime, they tried to keep Sabbath Laws and Dietary Laws. Obeying God’s commandments was a life and death matter for the nation!

### **Which Law was the cause of the trouble?**

The synagogue leader was partly right and partly wrong. Yes, the nation was destroyed by the foreign powers as a part of God's judgment on the violation of the divine laws. That part was right. However, the laws that God cared for were the laws of social justice, not the Sabbath Laws and Dietary Laws, or Purification Laws and Temple Laws. That part was wrong!

### **Experiences on the Mountain of Fear and the Mountain of Joy**

Do you remember the scene where Moses climbed upon the Holy Mountain to get the Ten Commandments? Hebrews explains it. "You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

It was the mountain of fear. The author of Hebrews compares that experience with the experience of the mountain of joy. It was the experience that the woman whom Jesus healed had.

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."

The blood of Abel cried out for revenge. The sprinkled blood of Jesus shouts for freedom of all. All those who are under power, and sin should be freed. All those who are under laws and orders will be given new life! For that purpose, laws and orders will be shaken and reformed in life-giving spirit. That was the teaching and warning that Jesus gave to the synagogue leader.

Hebrews says, "See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time, his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain."

The woman whom Jesus cured received a kingdom that cannot be shaken. "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"

### **We are called to proclaim freedom and joy**

There is no surgeon who opens up a body of a person and leaves it on the surgery table. Every doctor will close up the body and helps the patient to be healed. When Jesus shook up the laws and orders, Jesus gave us new laws of love and life.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to do the same mission and ministry. We are not warriors to defeat the power of sin and death. It was already done by Jesus on the Cross. A main surgeon has removed cancer cells already. Now the assistant doctors and surgery room nurses can finish up the process and help the patient to recover.

We are called to do this follow up works. Often, we feel that we are not ready to do God's work. However, God said to Jeremiah that God called him to do this work even before he was formed in his mother's womb. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah protested, saying, "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, I do not know how to speak; I am too young. But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, I am too young. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," then God declares that "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

### **What do we uproot and tear down?**

We uproot and tear down all the fake gods that demand us more religious burdens. They always say to people, "You are not good enough!" "It is your fault!" and "You should have done this!" We need to destroy and overthrow barriers that block people to come to God. We will say, "You are good enough!" "It is not your fault!" and "There is nothing that you need to do to make God love you more." We will break down all the walls between classes, races, sexes, and cultures.

### **What do we build and plant?**

We will build up God's Kingdom and plant its righteousness. In God's Kingdom, everybody is welcomed and respected. Everybody is cared for and loved. We will say, "We are not perfect, but we will do all the good as much as we can, with every means as we can, to as many people as we can, and in every way we can." Last Sunday we blessed children and teachers with blessing of backpacks and cards. We then enjoyed *Nothing but Musical* with wonderful music and food. Even for a couple hours, we foretasted what the Kingdom of God looks like. Young children and elderly volunteers served together. Former pastors and their wives came together to support our mission and ministries. Guests and church members laughed together and ate together. Our church came back to the before COVID condition. The final song that all the musicians sang together sounded like proclaiming, "You are free from your ailment!" Now we are ready to go and do God's ministries! May God be with us in building up and planting God's Kindom in the world! Amen.