

# Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

## ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday August 7, 2022



### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

*O Spirit of the Living God*  
(L. Smith)

Monica Adams

#### GATHERING MOMENT

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lord, we examined our budget and schedule.

**All: We confirmed where our priorities are.**

Leader: Lord, we want to seek your Kingdom and its righteousness first.

**All: Help us to reduce our expenses for things not essential.**

Leader: Lord, we see the needs of our neighbors.

**All: Guide us to increase our giving for our neighbors.**

Leader: Lord, we want to walk with you every day.

**All: Give us joy, hope, peace, and love in everything.**

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (10:00am)

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

UMH #57

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

*Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.*

*He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.*

*He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.*

*Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.*

*In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** (10:00am)

Alan Cook

**PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED** (10:00am)

**MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT**

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (10:00am)

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

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (10:00am)

(10:00am) 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!") Joe Krider (8:30am)  
**All Sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path* (2x).** Laura Dinges (10:00am)

### **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (10:00am)

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? Says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more! Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool? If you are willing

and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN**

*Are Ye Able*

UMH #530

*“Are ye able,” said the Master, “to be crucified with me?”  
“Yea,” the sturdy dreamers answered, “to the death we follow thee.”*

**Refrain:**

*Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine. Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.  
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.*

*Are ye able to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes,  
that his pardoned soul is worthy of a place in paradise? (Refrain)*

*Are ye able when the shadows close around you with the sod,  
to believe that spirit triumphs, to commend your soul to God? (Refrain)*

*Are ye able? Still the Master whispers down eternity,  
and heroic spirits answer, now as then in Galilee. (Refrain)*

**SCRIPTURE**

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Joe Krider (8:30am)

Laura Dinges (10:00am)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah’s involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered<sup>[a]</sup> him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

“You Must Be Ready”

Pastor Sungho Lee

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (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

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (10:00am)

#### OFFERTORY

*My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*  
(A.D. Miller)

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**

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (10:00am)

**COMMUNION**

**UMH #24-25**

Joe Krider (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (10:00am)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right and a good and joyful thing...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sing: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Sing: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**Sing: Amen, amen, amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*Let Us Break Bread  
Fill My Cup, Lord  
Take Our Bread*

TFWS #3119  
UMH #641  
UMH #640

**COMMUNION REFLECTION**

Pastor Sungho Lee

**SENDING FORTH**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH #577

*God of grace and God of glory, on the people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Sungho Lee

**\*POSTLUDE**

*At the Lamb's High Feast*  
(A.D. Miller)

Monica Adams

**FLOWERS**

**The altar flowers are given by Irene Muster in memory of her husband Raymond Muster.**

\* Indicates please stand as you are able.

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**SERVING YOU TODAY**

Rev. Sungho Lee  
Joe Krider, Worship Leader, 8:30am  
Laura Dinges, Worship Leader, 10:00am  
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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**REMEMBER THE SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY IS AT 11.00AM NEXT SUNDAY.**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14**

The day begins with **Blessing of the Backpacks** during the 11.00am worship service. All students are invited to bring their backpacks to church next Sunday. During the Children's Moment each student will receive a special blessing.

**Godly Play** returns after a short summer break. Following the Children's Moment, children ages four years – sixth grade will head to the Godly Play sanctuaries on the second floor of the Knoles Building. There they will hear a story using objects, explore the story with open ended questions and discussions, and respond with a free choice using a variety of art materials. The time together will end with prayer and a simple feast.

**Nothing But Musicals** will conclude our day on the Central campus. This special occasion is presented by our Chancel Choir and members and friends of our United Methodist Youth Fellowship. Enjoy dining with others from the Central community. Brunch will be scrambled eggs, pancakes, waffles, toast, fruit, ham, muffins, cookies and carrot cake. While enjoying your meal you will have the opportunity to listen to some of your favorite songs from musicals. Suggested donation is between \$10 and \$20. Reserve your space after church today.

## SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "YOU MUST BE READY"

### **What is your style?**

Some people believe that we do not need to fix what is not broken. Some people, however, believe that we need to prevent accidents before they happen. Do you support a major financial campaign to repair a roof when we have leakage or save money annually for 50 years to replace the roof one time?

### **Prophets cried out for repair!**

When we read the prophetic books, we learn that they talked about a leaking roof. The nation was already broken, and the prophets urged people to repent to repair the nation.

Isaiah was a prophet during the reigns of 4 kings of Juda (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah). Isaiah called these kings "rulers of Sodom," and the people as "people of Gomorrah!" As we know, these two cities were destroyed by fire in Genesis 13 and used as symbols of wickedness in the Bible.

The most serious sins of these two cities were sins of inhospitality. They did not welcome their guests, but they harmed them with violence. Because of these sins, God says, "The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?" God declared all the religious ceremonies and rites as meaningless and "even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening."

God wants to see people practice social justice when they worship God. God demanded justice, saying, "Learn to do right; seek justice." Then how do we seek justice? God answered, "Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

That is how to repair a broken nation. We need to pay attention to the poor, the homeless, the oppressed before our nation collapses. I ask politicians, policy makers, and experts among our church members to offer practical solutions to the issues of homelessness and poverty. I am willing and ready to support their practical suggestions with prayer and offerings.

### **God is ready to forgive our sins and move forward.**

When we repent our sins of selfishness and pay attention to those poor and oppressed people in our communities, God will forgive our sins. God says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword."

### **History tells us that Israel did not listen to God.**

Even though Isaiah had given warnings to the kings for more than half a century, Israel did not listen to God and continued their sins. They did not pay attention to the poor. Then it was destroyed by Babylon in 587 BC. They became diaspora without their own nation for two thousand five hundred years. In 1948, they became a new nation, Israel.

It would be much better to repair a roof before it leaks. God is the God who gives warnings. God does not make a surprise attack on anybody. God proclaimed and laid out clear principles for everybody and gives enough warnings in advance. We can take time to think about it before we experience the consequences of our actions.

### **Do we need to solve the poverty issue completely to prevent the demise of our nation?**

No. We do not need to solve the poverty issue completely. We are not able to do that. God knows that we are incompetent. Even with best intent, we hurt others and make mistakes. Poverty is a complex issue. However, God wants us to pay attention to the people who are in need.

John Wesley said, "Do all the goods you can, to all the people you can, with all the means you can, at all the times you can, by all the means you can, as long as you can." We are all sinners and not perfect. That is all we can, and God knows it.

Genesis 6:5 says, "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." However, after the flood, God said, "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood." (Genesis 8:21) "Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind (Genesis 9:14).

### **We need to dream of and work for the community where we can live together.**

God does not expect us to solve the poverty issue completely. God wants us to dream of and work for the community where we can live together. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

When we hope for a beloved community, it is our faith that God will make it happen among us. Even though we do not know how to achieve the goal, we are sure that God will guide us there. That is our faith. Our faith journey is a process. Our ancestors already walked this road with faith.

### **Let us examine the life of Abraham and Sarah.**

Hebrews 11:8-10 says, "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed, and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

It continues the story. "And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one couple came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore."

### **Abraham and Sarah actually did not see the land and the descendants.**

Hebrews says that they were still living by faith when they died. This is the point. "They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth."

We may not achieve a community where everybody has equality (same resources). However, we can build up a community where everybody has equity (equal opportunities). People should have equal opportunity and fair rules of competition.

When people lose, there should be some social safety net. Even a monkey can fall from a tree. Minimum and basic necessities should be available to everybody in all communities. In our nation, we have a federal welfare system for that. Some people hate those who receive welfare benefits. Then ask this question: "Do I want to be on the giving side or receiving side?" When we are on the giving side,



we should be thankful and give joyfully. When we are on the receiving side, we should receive it with much appreciation.

Jesus taught us to pray for “daily bread” and “forgiveness” for everybody. That is the basic “physical” and “spiritual” needs of everybody.

**We need sacrifice of the rich people to build up such beloved community.**

It is inevitable for us to have differences. However, we do not need to show discrimination. Some people have talents, treasure, and time more than others. Some people were born with physical and mental challenges. There is no way for them to compete in a free capitalistic society and win their places. There are mountains and valleys in nature. We all have ups and downs in life. Some people are rich and some people are poor in societies. We cannot prevent these discrepancies from happening, and make everything flat and equal. That is not what God wants. God makes us colorful with many shapes and colors.

However, when we are doing well, we can consider the poor. We can even sacrifice our time, talents, and treasure to help others out. Hebrews says that people who do sacrifice their time, talents, and treasure are “longing for a better country—a heavenly one.” They consider the life beyond this earthly life. “Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

**We are citizens of God’s Kingdom.**

Jesus said in Luke 12:32-40, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Jesus did not say here, “Sell *all* your possessions and give to the poor.” Jesus once said that to a young rich man. “Sell some of your possessions and follow me!” However, here Jesus says, “Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out!” We can have our purses.

Practically, our goal is to give ten percent of our income to our missions and ministries. 90% of our income is at our disposal. We are willing to give 10% of our income to God. However, if you do not have joy in giving, you are not ready to give 10%. Give only what you can give with joy. If you give with complaints, it becomes a law. We give taxes whether we like it or not because it is a law. Offering is different from tax.

We give tax because we are citizens of our country. We give offering because we are citizens of God’s Kingdom. Paying tax is a legal duty. Giving offering is a means of Grace, through which we experience joy and express our faith. We can grow spiritually through giving.

**We reveal our values when we spend our money.**

When people want to know where their priorities in life are, I ask them to show me their budget and schedule book. Then I can tell them where their priorities are. I emphasize our committee chairs to make their committee budget and bring it to the Church Council. Our budgets will show where our hearts are. Budgets are a condition of our spiritual health. We can check our spiritual health with them. It shows our faith in action.

**We need to live like our Lord will come back any time.**

When we have faith in life beyond our bodily life, we will organize our life here on Earth also differently. We live as if Jesus comes back any time.

Jesus said, "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Let us take time to reflect on our budget and schedule to see if we are ready to go to meet our Lord. Amen.