

# Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

## ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, October 30, 2022



### GATHERING

**PRELUDE** *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend, var. 3, 5* Monica Adams  
(Boehm)

**GATHERING MOMENT** Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (11:00am)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (11:00am)

**Leader:** How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?

**All:** **Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?**

**Leader:** "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

**All:** **Though it lingers, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.**

**Leader:** "See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright."

**All:** **But the righteous person will live by his faithfulness. Amen!**

**INTROIT** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Chancel Choir

**\*OPENING HYMN** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* UMH #110

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** (11:00am) Alan Cook

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

**MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT** Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (11:00am)

**RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** Laura Dinges (11:00am)

**\*PASSING THE PEACE** Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with You!")  
Laura Dinges (11:00am)

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

ANTHEM

*Now Thank We All Our God*  
(arr. Mark Hayes)

Chancel Choir

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 (Pew Bible NRSV, pages 871, 872)

Alexis Easton (8:30am)

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

Laura Dinges (11:00am)

All: **Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN

*By Grace We Have Been Saved by Faith*

ST. ANNE 8.6.8.6 ("Our God, Our Help in Ages Past")

***By grace, we have been saved through faith and not by works we do.***

***For just as God gives life and breath God makes us whole and new.***

***We cannot boast of all our deeds; we have not earned our way.***

***It's God, in Christ, who claims and frees and calls us day by day.***

***Though all our works won't cure our sin or give to us our worth,***

***we're called to use this time we're in to serve God here on earth.***

***O God, in Christ, we hold this world within your love's embrace.***

***In serving you, we thank you, Lord, for all your wondrous grace.***

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 82)

Alexis Easton (8:30am)

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

Laura Dinges (11:00am)

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Today, Salvation Come to This House"

Rev. Sungho Lee

QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME (8:30am)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alexis Easton (8:30am)

Laura Dinges (11:00am)

After a concern, the worship leader will say "Let us pray to the Lord," and the congregation will reply, "Lord, hear our prayer!"

After a joy, the worship leader will say "Let us pray to the Lord," and the congregation will reply, "Lord, we give thanks!"

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. 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)

Laura Dinges (11:00am)

OFFERTORY

*Shepherd Me, O God* (8:30am)  
(Marty Haugen)

Alexis Easton &

Susan Perez, Soloists

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.*

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH #94

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Alexis Easton (8:30am)  
Laura Dinges (11:00am)

**SENDING FORTH**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

UMH #451

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Sungho Lee

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
Old 100th (J. Pachelbel)

Monica Adams

\* Indicates please stand as you are able.

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**SERVING YOU TODAY**

Rev. Sungho Lee  
Alexis Easton, Worship Leader, 8:30am  
Laura Dinges, Worship Leader, 11:00am  
Ric Campero, Choir Director  
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist  
Alan Cook, Children's Moment  
David Campero, Media  
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator  
Rupert Cooper, Audio



**THANKSGIVING IN A BOX**

Beginning this Sunday, we will be trying to fill 48 boxes with items for Thanksgiving meals for 48 August School families. Families range in number from two to eight. Everyone is invited to participate by purchasing all the items on the shopping list or a few of the items. Maybe you will decide that you would like to purchase 20 cans of fruit. We will be collecting these items beginning this Sunday until November 13. If you purchase a turkey, we ask that you not bring it to church until November 13 due to a lack of freezer space. You may also donate to CUMC and on the memo line put August School Thanksgiving.

**Shopping List**

- Box of Stuffing Mix
- 1 can or package of turkey gravy
- Box of Instant Potatoes
- 2 Cans of Vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, yams)
- 2 Cans of Fruit (peaches, fruit cocktail, apple sauce, pears,
- 1 Can of Cranberry Sauce
- 1 Pillsbury Crescent Rolls (or similar product)
- Pie
- 1 Package of butter
- 1 Turkey (or \$25 gift card to a grocery store)

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The next book group discussion is scheduled for Nov. 6th following the 11:00am service. *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear. Still plenty of time to read this book plus we gain an extra hour the night before.

We're advancing! After 3 books set in 1921 India, this one starts in 1929, London.

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### SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "TODAY SALVATION HAS COME TO THIS HOUSE!"

Pastor Sungho Lee – October 30, 2022

#### **It is difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!**

We just read Luke 19:1-10, a story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector. We can understand this story in the light of Luke 18:18-25, a story of a rich man. In that story a rich man came to Jesus. He wanted to know what he needed to do to enter the Kingdom of God.

First, Jesus said to him to keep all the commandments. It sounded like that salvation depended on good works! However, when the rich man said that he had kept all those commandments, Jesus said to him to sell all his possessions and give them to the poor and to follow Jesus.

Finally, the rich man gave up. He returned home with a long face. He realized that he could not earn his salvation by doing good works! He was able to do good works because he was a rich man. If he did not have any money, was he able to keep all the commandments?

Jesus declared, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Jesus even said, "Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

#### **Are you rich?**

When we meditate on what Jesus said, we realize that we cannot enter the Kingdom of God! We are all rich! Many of us think that we need to have \$1.6 million to be called rich according to statistics in the USA. However, living in the USA already makes us all rich. We enjoy many things every day that people in other countries want to have for only one day! Many people in the world do not have a meal a day and drinking water in their village. In their eyes, we are rich! Many people want to come to our country illegally risking their lives! Why? They want to live like us!

#### **How can we enter the Kingdom of God, then? Zacchaeus Case Study.**

We are all rich. According to Jesus, it is impossible for us to enter the Kingdom of God. However, today's story shares with us the secret how a rich person can enter the Kingdom of God. So, listen carefully as if your life depends on this story!

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was short. He could not see over the crowd. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So, he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

He did not give up all his possessions because he needed to pay back four times what he had cheated to anybody. In the Old Testament law, you have to pay back either four times or five times what you steal depending on the item. We have to compensate all the damages including the lost opportunities and mental damages.

In other words, Zaccheus actually gave up all his possessions and wanted to follow Jesus. He did what the rich man in Luke 18 could not do.

Jesus said to him, "This man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

**We have to be stewards and not owners of our possessions to enter the Kingdom of God.**

As we saw in this story, the only way to enter the Kingdom of God is to give up all we have to follow Jesus. It is not enough for us to make pledges or tithe to the church.

Sometimes people said to me that tithing is an Old Testament law and we do not want to keep the Old Testament law. They want to know the New Testament standard. This is it. In the New Testament, Jesus gave his life for us and expects us to give our life for God! Once they realize it, they want to just tithe and feel comfortable.

We need to declare that we are not the owners of our time, talents, and treasure. That is our testimony! Biblically speaking, we are just stewards of our assets! We have to use them according to the will of our Lord! When you hire a financial service to manage your assets, what do you expect your finance manager to do? That is exactly what God expects us to do. As we pay service fees, God will allow us to enjoy some of the fees. But that is all!

**If our goal is not entering the Kingdom of God, we do not have to be stewards of God's Kingdom!**

What I have said is relevant only to those who want to know how to enter the Kingdom of God. If you do not want to enter the Kingdom of God, what I have said is strange and not relevant to you.

Some religions teach people how to be moral or ethical persons in our community. Some religions guide you how to have peace in your mind. Some religions aim to keep the order and peace of a community. Each religion has different goals, and they function well to achieve their goals.

**Different religions have different goals: Keeping the law and order of a community is the goal of Confucianism and Judaism.**

For example, Confucianism explains the principles of the universe as Yin and Yang. Judaism use the concepts of Good and Evil. The role of men and women are assigned according to this grand principle. Sexism is explained away in light of this grand principle and people accepted the different roles of women as life-bearers and nurtures and men as breadwinners and controllers of community. I do not agree with their explanations. People are required to keep the laws.

Many people resist this binary system and express themselves with many concepts beyond man and woman, boy and girl, and good and evil. That is the root of the LGBTQAI+ community. It is not only about romantic lovemaking. It has deeper roots in fighting against or denying this binary world view. First it produced the Feminist movement, which still worked in this binary division. Then it went further. They saw more than two counterparts in the universe. There are more than protons and electrons in nature. There are neutrons. There are more particles and waves. It is a world of quantum physics. Even Einstein could not comprehend and swallow. I do not expect our generation can fully embrace quantum physics or LGBTQAI+ because it goes beyond our daily experiences unless the person is an extraordinary genius. Someday, however, they will all become ordinary daily experience as General and Special Theories of Relativity became theories of old age. (Some people still do not understand the Theory of General Relativity!)

**Understanding and accepting suffering is the goal of Buddhism.**

When I went to a Buddhist country, there were so many minor girl prostitutes. A Buddhist monk explained that they were suffering such fates because they had done terrible things in their previous lives. When they suffered enough in this life, they might have a better life in the next life. In this way, they had to go through the cycles of many lives until they arrived at Nirvana. It was an explanation how to embrace sufferings and to keep peace of their minds. I do not accept their views. This is social justice issue for me, not a philosophical and religious issue. We need to take action, not explanation!

**Restoration of the relationship with our Creator and abundant life is the goal of Christianity.**

We Christians believe that the world is broken because of our human brokenness. Whatever good works we do, we cannot cure the brokenness of the world by our best intentions and efforts. Jesus came to restore our brokenness and our relationship with God, our Creator and King. When we accept that all our moral works are not good enough for us to be righteous, we humbly ask Jesus to save us.

Then the blood of the sacrificial lamb of God, Jesus, would reconnect us with God. It is like CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) for a person whose heartbeat and breathing stopped. We cannot ask the person to do social justice. First Jesus had to resuscitate us. (Some people put a DNR sign on their chest, though!) Then we came back to life and gave thanks to God!

We are still sinners but we become righteous in the sight of God and we can be a channel of God's blessings. We restore our relationship with God as God's children and God's stewards in God's Kingdom. Then we can work for justice with joy.

Now our time, talents, and treasures are not ours. They are all God's. We are working as God's faithful stewards for God's Kingdom.

**The one questions that we still need to ask is this:****Am I the master of my life or is God the master of my life?**

Apostle Paul encouraged Thessalonians with these words: "Your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing, your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. The name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him."

Let us give to God what belongs to God. Let us glorify God through our words and action. Give him tithes, pledges, and all because God is the master, and we are just stewards! Amen.