Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pulpit Exchange Sunday

Sunday, October 9, 2022



GATHERING

PRELUDE What a Friend We Have in Jesus Monica Adams
[Mark Hayes]

GATHERING MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am)

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lord, people say that I am not good enough.

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

All: But you say that I am good enough for the Kingdom of God.

Leader: Lord, people say that I am not invited here.

All: But you invited me and welcomed me here.

Leader: Lord, people say that I am a sinner.

All: But you have forgiven my sins and declare that I am free!

Leader: We are here to worship you!

All: Jesus, you are my Lord and my master! Hallelujah!

INTROIT O Praise God Chancel Choir

[By Eric H. Thiman]

*OPENING HYMN Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR 8.8.8.8 ("That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright")

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Good Shepherd, we are not alone, for you protect and love your own. And we, responding, know your voice; We hear you calling and rejoice.

Another shepherd might turn back and flee at danger's first attack; But you laid down your very life — A loving shepherd's sacrifice.

A thief may well destroy and steal, but you, Good Shepherd, save and heal. You lead your sheep to pasture land, To life abundant, by your hand.

You gather sheep from far and wide — From folds we know and from outside. One flock, one Shepherd, there will be — A loving, blest community.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00am)

Alan Cook

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED (11:00am)

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Chris Chan (8:30am)

Chris Chan (8:30am)

Chris Chan (8:30am)

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

*PASSING THE PEACE

(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with You!")

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

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

ANTHEM Shout With Joy! Chancel Choir

[By Mark Patterson]

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*HYMN I believe

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D ("Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken")
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I believe in God the Father, the Almighty God above,
Maker of the earth and heaven which were formed in God's great love.
And in Jesus, loving Jesus, God's own Son, who makes us new.
This, the creed of generations, is the faith for our church, too.

Jesus, by God's Holy Spirit, was so wondrously conceived, Born unto the Virgin Mary, who your promises believed. Jesus suffering under Pilate, on a cross was crucified. Soldiers mocked him, friends denied him; he hung there until he died.

So it was, our Lord was buried, in a borrowed tomb he lay.
To the dead he then descended, where was joy on earth that day?
There is more to God's great story: In three days he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and he sits at God's right hand.

I believe what God has promised: Christ will come as he has said. He will judge the nations' peoples, both the living and the dead. I believe God's Holy Spirit makes the church one family. We're surrounded by God's people, saints who in our Lord believe.

I believe that God forgives us for the times we turn away, And that God will raise our bodies on that resurrection day. We rejoice we'll live forever, singing praise to God's great name. This, the creed of generations, is the faith that we proclaim. SCRIPTURE Mark 2:1-12 (NRSV Pew Bible page 36) Rev. Hyesung Lee

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Whole Again by Faith" Rev. Hyesung Lee

QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME (8:30am)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Chris Chan (8:30am)

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

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

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

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Hyesung 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 Chris Chan (8:30am)

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

OFFERTORY Jesus Paid It All Monica Adams

[Howard Helvey]

*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Chris Chan (8:30am)

Mary Juarez Dalton (11:00am)

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN When in Our Music God is Glorified UMH #68

*BENEDICTION Rev. Hyesung Lee

*POSTLUDE Voluntary on Hymn to Joy with Voluntary IX by John Stanley Monica Adams

[Michael Burkhardt]

^{*} Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Hyesung Lee, Guest Minister Chris Chan, Worship Leader, 8:30am Mary Juarez Dalton, Worship Leader, 11:00am Elizabeth Van Eerde, Guest Choir Director Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist Alan Cook, Children's Moment David Campero, Media Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator Rupert Cooper, Audio

LAITY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

October 16 is Laity Sunday. Mary Juárez Dalton will be our lay preacher. The Worship Team would like to celebrate the various ministries in which our congregants are involved. During worship, we would like to hear from some of these lay ministers about their service. Sign up to say a few words during worship on October 16 about your ministry at the Opportunities to Serve table!

CENTRAL UMC ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE, Sunday, October 23

All members, constituents, and friends of Central are welcome to attend our Annual All Church Conference at noon. We will enjoy a light lunch after the 11.00am worship service and convene for our Church Conference at 12.30pm. Our District Superintendent, the Rev. David Niu, will be presiding as we celebrate our ministry together this year and look forward to 2023 and beyond. This is an important meeting. The All Church Conference has been well attended when they were held in person. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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). The membership class will meet with Pastor Lee four times during the month of October. 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. Time and place of the meetings will depend on who signs up for the class.

🖑 Sermon in Your Hands 🖑

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 9, 2022

PULPIT EXCHANGE

between Brentwood Community & Central UMC

Mark 2:1-12 Whole Again by Faith Rev. Hyesung Lee

It is so great to meet you all this morning! Thank you for your invitation to this pulpit! I deeply appreciate your love and support for my family and for your clergy-couple pastors. You are so generous, because we don't really provide a Buy One Get One Free service anymore, but you still accept us and love us. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

We are here today together because of Jesus. He is the ultimate common reason why we are who we are and why we do what we do. If it were not for Jesus, we would have not met each other like this today. At one point in our lives, we all met Jesus. I met Him when I was 13 years old. Growing up as a pastor's kid, Church was my home and playground. But as a person, I met Jesus during Youth Camp. On the 3rd night of the camp, everyone was praying individually on top of the mountain. In a vision, He came to me and said He loved me and forgave me. As a teenager, I didn't know what that meant exactly. But I knew I was okay no matter who I was or what I

had done because I was accepted and loved. This vision is still vivid and real in my memory. His light was so bright and gentle. His loving eyes touched my soul calmly. That night, Jesus' unconditional love overwhelmed me...so I cried and cried. When I came down to the camp, my face was swollen with so many mosquito bites. My face looked ridiculous, and my friends made fun of me. But my heart was filled with great joy and my soul kept singing and smiling.

When Jesus enters into our lives, our truth changes. Before that night, I was a not-so-good-enough girl who had an awkward relationship with herself. That was the truth. But when Jesus entered into my life, my truth changed. Somehow, I was an OK one...a forgiven one, a justified one, someone who was affirmed and guaranteed by the Holy One. And there was peace in my world.

In our Gospel today, there was a man in a not-so-good state, since he was paralyzed and depending on others' help all the time. But he had awesome friends who loved him and believed in the goodness of Jesus. It was their faith that made them do everything they could to bring their paralyzed friend in front of Jesus. Even though they disrupted the house by making a hole on the roof, Jesus didn't scold their act but only focused on the paralytic and said: "Child, your sins are forgiven!" (v. 5) By saying this, Jesus brought up an unexpected subject "sin" on the table and claimed unauthorized power – the power to forgive sins. While the crowd was in their own shock mode, the scribes were questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" The truth for them was what their Law said. According to their Law, a paralytic was not allowed to enter into the Temple thus not able to be forgiven. Also, forgiveness came only from God, only through the service of the High Priest. But Jesus said the Son of Man, the human one in flesh and blood, could forgive sins. He spoke it out loudly because he wanted everyone to hear this good news. The truth was now changed. Even physically disabled people were now allowed to be in the presence of God...forgiven and redeemed. Either the healthy or the weak can be made whole again by their faith without the works of the Law. The apostle Paul proclaimed this Gospel in his letter to Galatians - "for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith...There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (3:26-28).

This was the belief and spirit that missionaries to Korea had in their hearts and minds. In early 1880s, *United Methodist Women* in Ribena, OH, gathered together and prayed about the poor in the world. And someone spoke about the desperate need to send a missionary to Korea. *Lucia Baldwin* offered her money (\$88) for Korean mission. At the time it was worth enough to build a hospital. Then a 52-year-old woman named *Mary Scranton* volunteered to go to Korea as a missionary. Can you imagine their courage, generosity, and passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

142 years ago, Korean people were living under the poverty level. Mrs. Scranton opened a school for girls. But parents said "No one with right minds would ever send their daughters to school. They should stay home." So, she went out to the streets and met girls with no parents. They were orphans and homeless, even without names. So, she started caring for them, giving them names, and teaching them. That school grew to be a middle school and high school and later became the largest Women's University in the world. It is Ewha Women's University that I graduated from in 1984. Hallelujah!

The truth that matters is that all are welcome in Christ Jesus whether you are Jews or Gentiles, Free or Slave, Rich or Poor, Male or Female, Healthy or Weak, LGBTQIA siblings or Cisgender-Heterosexual people, Citizens or Un-Documented, Republicans or Democrats, Methodists or Baptists. We are all ONE in the grace of God. Let this truth be ours forever! Amen.