

# Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

## ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, January 8, 2023



### GATHERING

<b>PRELUDE</b>		Monica Adams
<b>GATHERING MOMENT</b>		Laura Dinges (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Laura Dinges (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
<b>Leader:</b>	Lord, people call us with many names!	
<b>All:</b>	<b>We will listen to your voice only.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	Lord, you call us "My beloved child!"	
<b>All:</b>	<b>You are well pleased with us.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	Lord, you called us to do your work!	
<b>All:</b>	<b>We are happy and willing to do your work! Make us one in your love. Amen.</b>	
<b>*OPENING HYMN</b>	<i>We Three Kings</i>	UMH #254
<b>CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00am)</b>		Carol Willson
<b>PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED</b>		
<b>MISSION &amp; MINISTRIES MOMENT</b>		Laura Dinges (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
<b>RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS</b>		Joe Krider (11:00am)
<b>*PASSING THE PEACE</b>		Laura Dinges (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
	(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with You!")	
	<b>All Sing: <i>Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (2x).</i></b>	
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>Saw You Never, in the Twilight</i> [Words by Cecil Frances Alexander 1825-1895] [Music by Joseph M. Martin Incorporating tune: GREENSLEEVES]	Chancel Choir

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 42:1-9 (Pew Bible NRVs, page 670) Laura Dinges (8:30am)  
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Joe Krider (11:00am)  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN** *In the Bleak Midwinter* UMH #221

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 3:13-17 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 3) Laura Dinges (8:30am)  
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Joe Krider (11:00am)  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "This Is My Son with Whom I am Pleased" Rev. Sungho Lee

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Laura Dinges (8:30am), Joe Krider (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** Laura Dinges (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

**OFFERTORY** Monica Adams

**\*DOXOLOGY** *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1)* UMH #238

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Rev. Sungho Lee

## SENDING FORTH

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *From a Distant Home* UMH #243

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Sungho Lee

**\*POSTLUDE** Monica Adams

***The flowers on the Altar are to celebrate the England's 51st Anniversary.***

\* Indicates please stand as you are able.

## SERVING YOU TODAY

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

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### **SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "THIS IS MY SON, WITH WHOM I AM PLEASED."**

#### **Do you know that you are God's beloved child?**

Once in our church gathering, I heard someone that I respect as a good pastor saying, "Someone called me garbage." I was shocked! I know and she knows that she is not garbage, but someone called her garbage because she is a lesbian! It makes me angry! We do not call other person garbage just because she is a colored person or a lesbian or a mentally ill person.

However, what other people call us does not define us. People can call us by many names. People ask me whether they should call me pastor, reverend, doctor or mister. I say, "call me whatever you like, but don't call me late for dinner." Or do not call me pastor Holee. I am not that holy. My name is Sungho Lee, not Sung Holee. What matters to us is how God calls us. God says, "You are my beloved, and I am well pleased with you!"

#### **Jesus started his ministry with such confirmation as God's beloved son.**

When we read Matthew 3:13-17, we learned that Jesus was baptized by John at the Jordan River. When Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove, and a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Jesus was also called by many names. Some people called Jesus, "a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" (Matthew 11:19) Jesus did not pay attention to this name. Jesus focused on God's calling.

#### **Jesus did not grow faint or be crushed because he knew that he was God's beloved.**

Isaiah prophesied about the ministry of the Messiah and his non-violent way, saying "He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching." This is the definition of non-violence resistance.

The key to the non-violent resistance is self-identity as God's agent. As long as we know that we are God's beloved, and God is with us, we can wait with hope, and we can be gentle and humble.

#### **We can be humble and gentle when we know that we are God's beloved.**

When I had a surgery, the recovery took time. I wanted to come back to church right away and to start ministry the next week. However, I had to take time to recover and to restore my strength and health. I had to be patient.

However, I did not lose my hope because I knew I was on the right track. I knew that God was with me. I knew that many people prayed for me. I was able to work on my recovery with patience.

Many times, people become impatient because they lost their faith in *God's timing*. They want justice now! I understand their frustration. However, everything takes time, and God knows how much time it takes. We cannot take out a Thanksgiving turkey from an oven after 10 minutes! Cooking takes time.

When I was ordained, my father-in-law, Hyesung's father, told me this lesson that I still remember: "Sungho, when you plant a tree, water them, put fertilizer around them, and take weeds out, but do not pull them up to make it grow faster." When Carol did an Advent Children Sermon, she said exactly same thing. We did not see a flower yet. But we wait patiently with hope, and water them with love.

### **When we know who we are, we can resist all the temptations.**

Jesus went to the wilderness to take a test. We can notice two things in the story of temptations. First, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. The Holy Spirit brought Jesus to the testing place! Second, Jesus won over three temptations because he knew who he was. "I am God's son, whom God is well pleased with!"

### **Isaiah conformed the identity of Jesus again.**

Isaiah said this about Jesus: "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."

Can we say that God says the same thing about us? Can you hear in this passage that God is also talking about us? "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."

### **Our mission and ministry come from our identity as God's servant.**

We are both God's beloved children and God's servants. We know that we have all the rights and privileges as God's children in the world and in the world to come. We have eternal life and resurrection. We are saved by the blood of Jesus. Satan cannot take away our status as God's children. However, we also have another status as God's servants. We are citizens of God's Kingdom, and servants of God's Kingdom. We have work to do, the work of Justice.

Isaiah spelled out the works that we need to do: "Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; *I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.* I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them."

### **We are called to spread out this Good News!**

This is our call! We are called to be the light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

We just need to figure out what are the dungeons in our times and where is darkness in our community. There we have to bring out lights and free the prisoners. Our Mission Committee has already started and supported many missions to do exactly that. So, what is your favorite mission that you want to be a part of as God's beloved? Use the R.I.S.K model. **Realize** the need of our community and your call. **Immerse** in it. **Start** a small step to meet the need. **Keep going** until you see sprout, branches, and fruits.

**We honor each other and focus on our mission that we are called to do.**

One caution that I want to add to this sermon is this: We do not force others to do “my mission” when they try to do “their missions.” For me, my mission is the most important and valuable job in the world. We tend to bring others into our mission because we value them so much. However, others have found their own missions. We need to value them. We do not say, “Why do you not come and help me and start your own?” We do say, “I am glad that you found your mission!”

We work together. We value each other. We know that we are all God’s beloved children and God’s servants in God’s vineyard. May God bless us all and bring us unity in diversity! Amen.

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**NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

There is still time to join Pastor Lee’s new membership class. If you want to be a member of Central UMC, please email Pastor Lee at [slee@cumcstockton.org](mailto:slee@cumcstockton.org) TODAY. The class will meet 4 times in January according to the schedule of the participants.

**ISAIAH PROJECT**

Join Pastor Sungho and Alan Cook today after church for a working lunch in the Fellowship Hall. They need your help in completing their first Isaiah Project homework assignment. Soup and French bread are on the menu. If you would like to bring a salad or dessert that would be great. We will be working in small groups to come up with high points and low points of Central’s ministry in the Stockton community. To be honest Pastor Sungho and Alan really need your help. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion.

**FAITH AND LEARNING SUNDAY**

January 22 at 11.00am, Central will host our 7<sup>th</sup> Faith and Learning Sunday. Our honored guest speaker will be Dr. Mary Lomax-Ghirarduzzi the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at our neighbor University of the Pacific. Dr. Lomax-Ghirarduzzi joined Pacific in 2021 as the university’s inaugural vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and chief diversity officer. She is also a professor in the Communications Department. Dr. Lomax-Ghirarduzzi is a leader on race, leadership, and faith-informed social justice.

Prior to Pacific Lomax-Ghirarduzzi served as a dean of students and vice provost of diversity and community engagement at University of San Francisco. She grew up in Stockton attending local schools and is a Edison High School graduate. Ben Reddish as one of her mentors. She is a 1989 Pacific graduate she also holds a MA in intercultural counseling and social justice education from San Diego State University and an EdD in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University.

Invite your friends who have attended Pacific and those neighbors and family members who you would like to introduce them to our faith community. Following the service there will be a reception hosted by the graduates of Pacific who attend Central.

**CELEBRATE THE WINTER IN THE BEST WAY: WITH CHILI, MUSIC, AND FUN!**

The members of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship and the Chancel Choir are beyond excited for the in-person Chili Cook-Off to return to the Central campus Sunday, January 29, at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Yes, and Snap Jackson & the Knock on Wood Players will be performing! This event has become one of the biggest “FUN”draisers for these two organizations.

Tickets to the Chili Cook- Off go on sale today. They are \$10 (children 12 and under are free). Everyone who purchases a ticket gets to participate in judging the chili entries. A limited number of tickets will be available the day of the event. Tickets sold at the door will be \$15. If you purchase 6 tickets you will receive two free tickets, and a table of eight will be reserved for you. Besides chili there will be a baked potato bar. During the Cook-Off guests will have the opportunity to bid on cakes and several special gift baskets.

The funds raised during this event will be divided equally to the Putnam Musical Enrichment Fund and the Summer Youth Experiences.

### **CHILI COOKS NEEDED**

Bring a crockpot or slower cooker containing your favorite chili recipe to the Fellowship Hall kitchen Sunday, January 29, no later than 10.30am to enter in one of the three categories.

Young Chefs (Contestants under age 18), Classic (meat & beans), and Veggie (Vegetarian chili) Also bring a serving utensil and a list of chili ingredients for our friends with allergies.

Do you know someone who makes a great chili invite them to enter. The top vote getter in each category will receive a \$50 cash prize. Register in advance by picking up an application at the Chili Cook Off table today.

### **ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

You are cordially invited to CUMC’s first Leadership Summit, to be held immediately following worship on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Lee will share his vision and plan for ministry in 2023.

Our 13 Committee Chairs (Adult Education, CMNS Advisory Board, Columbarium, Education, Finance, Flower, Godly Play, Lay Leadership Development, Membership, Mission, Reconciling, Staff-Parish Relations, Trustees, and Worship) will also speak to their visions and plans for 2023 as well as discussions about budgets and long-term goals. We hope you can join us!

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

The Rummage Sale is BACK! Save the date! Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4! Please watch connections and News from 3700 in the coming weeks for more details.

### **ROTARY READ-IN**

**Save the date: February 23, 2023**

This year Central has been asked to provide readers to the kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms at Cleveland and Madison schools. Each reader is asked to read one or two books to one or two classrooms. The books are then donated to the classrooms for the students to enjoy. It is a wonderful program and lots of fun too. Please consider joining us...the more the merrier!! Watch for sign-ups at the end of the month.