

# Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
*Communion Sunday*  
Sunday, February 5, 2023



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Be Still My Soul*  
(Kevin Olsen)

Monica Adams

### GATHERING MOMENT

Laura Dinges

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Dinges

**Leader:** We proclaim nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**All:** **We came here in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.**

**Leader:** Our proclamation was made not with persuasive words of wisdom.

**All:** **We speak with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power.**

**Leader:** Our faith rests not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

**All:** **We speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery.**

**Leader:** It is what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived.

**All:** **It is what God has prepared for those who love him.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*This Little Light of Mine*

UMH #585

### PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

### MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Laura Dinges

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

Laura Dinges

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

Laura Dinges

(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).*

ANTHEM *Gather Us In* Chancel Choir  
(arr. Mark Hayes)

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:1-9 (Pew Bible NRVs, page 688) Laura Dinges  
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* UMH #404

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:13-20 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 4) Laura Dinges  
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "You Are Salt And Light" Rev. Sungho Lee

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION (11:00am)  
Roland Dixon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Laura Dinges  
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

**THANKSGIVING**

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS Laura Dinges

OFFERTORY *All My Trials* Monica Adams  
(arr. Phillip Keveren)

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev. Sungho Lee

**COMMUNION**

UMH #24-25 Laura Dinges

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.**

#### 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.**

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry  
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart  
Hear, O My Lord, I See Thee*

TFWS #2051

UMH #629

UMH #623

#### COMMUNION REFLECTION

Rev. Sungho Lee

#### SENDING FORTH

#### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Go Forth for God*

UMH #670

#### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Sungho Lee

#### \*POSTLUDE

*Postlude on 'Lobe den Herren'*  
(Gordon Young)

Monica Adams

\* Indicates please stand as you are able.

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#### SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee  
Laura Dinges, Worship Leader  
Ric Campero, Choir Director  
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist  
David Campero, Livestream  
Mark Wharff, Media  
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator  
Rupert Cooper, Audio

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#### SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: WE ARE THE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD

#### Black History Month

Jesus said that we are the salt and light of the world. There are many things that we can do as the salt and light of the world. In February, we want to look at the Bible passages from the perspective of Black History Month. In February we remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is observed not only in the US but also in Canada, Ireland, and the UK. USA and Canada observe it in February, but Ireland and the UK observe it in October.

## **Light of the World**

First, we will remember important African American people in US history. They are the light of the world. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

The most famous example is Martin Luther King, Jr. He was an American Baptist minister and one of the leaders in the civil rights movement. His main legacy was non-violent resistance.

He did not use violence to make progress in human history. He did not become quiet in front of injustice, either. Light does not make sound, but it drives darkness away. On October 14, 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through non-violent resistance.

## **Salt of the World**

However, King's non-violent resistance could not have achieved important advances without the participation of many people, both White and Black. All those anonymous participants are salt of the earth.

Salt is not like light. Salt must be dissolved in water and become invisible to do its work. Without them history cannot make progress. We are making progress in human history because many people kept their covenant with God faithfully. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot."

King was one of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington. He delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech to quarter million people in Washington. After the speech, however, millions of others heard and read the speech through movies, books, and social media. It created a movement, the civil rights movement. The civil rights movement led to legislations like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. These Acts have helped not only African Americans but all races who had faced racism.

## **Prophetic Voices**

King was like the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 58: 3 asked the religious leaders who observed religious fasting, "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Isaiah pointed out the sins of those religious leaders, saying, "Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high."

Then Isaiah suggested the true meaning of fasting. "Is not this the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" Isaiah used rhetorical questions to make his points. "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

## **Salvation by Grace**

We know that we are saved by God's grace. Our good works cannot save us. Whatever we do, we know that our good works are not good enough to save us. We all have regrets, mistakes, selfish motivations, and sinful desires. We are saved by the blood of Jesus.

## **Joy of serving**

However, as forgiven sinners, we have joy when we serve God and others. Like the prodigal son in Luke 15, we ask our Father in heaven, saying, "I do not deserve to be called your son. Just treat me as one of your servants

and give me an opportunity to serve you!” However, our God, our Father in heaven, said to us, “You are my children with whom I am well pleased. I will have a feast for you!”

What an amazing grace! What an unconditional love we have experienced! Now we want to work in God’s Kingdom harder than the hired servants! Go to any small business, and see who works harder, an owner or an employee? Of course, an owner! Now we are the owner’s family members, and we work for the Kingdom of God with joy!

### **Accountability and Responsibility**

Jesus said in the Gospel reading for today, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

All the employees keep the rules of the business out of fear or with the expectation of promotion. Owners do more than what the rules require. We do not just give tithe. We give tithe and special offerings to our church and gifts and extra donations to many other non-profits. Why? Because the whole world belongs to our Father in heaven and all the people are our brothers and sisters!

When we have a pledge campaign, we can see the answer to the question “Who are the children of God and who are just visitors of our church?” About 25% of our church “members” made pledges for our annual budget. We want to raise the percentage up to at least 40%. So, if you forgot to bring your pledge card for 2023, you can still bring it to show that you belong to our church family as owners, not as guests.

We do not just come on Sundays to have one hour of worship. We come many other days to do volunteer work for mission and ministries. Who would work that much for wages and salaries? These volunteers gave their time, and we would say that time is money.

### **Black people have made other races lives better.**

Employees and hired workers work for themselves. They do not want to do overtime. Employers should pay overtime wages after hours. After one hour of worship, hired people will leave the worship. Employees will do only those jobs that is in the contract and in their job descriptions. If they work more than the contract hours, they demand payment for the extra hours. However, owners’ family will do whatever it takes to make the business thrive.

When the African Americans devoted their lives to the civil rights movement, the benefits have been shared with many other people, especially immigrants who came to the USA in the 70s and 80s. African Americans fought the fights not only for themselves but also for many others who came to the USA.

When I came to the US in 1987, I did not go through severe racism because of the sacrifices that African Americans fought in their fights in the 1960s. I have had many benefits legally and financially because the USA cares more for the marginalized and the poor people than before. They did not work just for themselves but for many others. African Americans show that they are not guests or hired workers of our country but the owners’ family.

### **True Meaning of the Black History Month**

As I have said, all the sacrifices that African American people made have made the whole American people’s lives better. Their works have not been just for African Americans. It is for all people both in the USA and in the world.

Many times, we have seen groups who fight for the human rights of the groups. Because nobody else speaks out for them, they have to find voices and votes for them. However, we have already seen that the works of one group benefit others. Our mission and ministries are not only for our own groups!

I have a dream. In this Stockton community, White people speak out for Black people. Asians work for the Latinos and Latinas. Black people care for the Asians. Straight people speak for LGBTQIA+. LGBTQIA+ people speak for immigrants. We do not speak out and work for our own communities alone. We work for others and others work for us. I found out that when I visit and care for our elderly population here, someone else visits and cares for my mother in San Jose.

We do not fight for our own group, but care for others. Each group does not have to raise their voices because others will speak out for them. That is God's Kingdom. That is how we celebrate the Black History Month. Let us find one way to be a blessing for other people around us. Sign up for Family Promise. Serve at St. Mary's Dining Room. Read books for children in the school district. Make pledges for our church mission and ministry. Be a member of the owners family, not just a guest. Sign up for Lenten Bible Challenge and belong to a small group. Do one thing that make this world a better place today. May God bless us to serve others as if we serve God, our Creator! Amen.



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

**THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

The Leadership Summit IS THIS SUNDAY, February 5 following the 11:00am service in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend! 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 speak to their visions and plans for 2023 as well as discussions about budgets and long-term goals. We hope you can join us!

### **COMMITMENT VOW RENEWAL SUNDAY**

The Worship Committee will have a "commitment vow renewal" service on Feb. 12 (the Sunday before Valentine's Day).

If you are married or in a committed relationship, come with your spouse/partner and renew your vows. If you are single, come and renew your commitment to God and God's people.

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Women of Central! Come to our first United Methodist Women/now United Women of Faith lunch gathering since COVID hit. Tuesday, February 14 – Brown bag lunch in the Fireside Room – 11.30am. Topic: March Rummage Sale. *And* we'll share info on the name change and plans for our future. All are welcome.

### **2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE**

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday) and ends on Saturday, April 8 (Holy Saturday). In Christian tradition, people abstain from entertainment, sensual pleasures and worldly desires during Lent. Many Christians use this time to prepare their body, mind, and spirit to be baptized on Easter.

We want to spend this Lenten journey with **Paul's Letter to Romans** (16 chapters) and **Gospel according to Luke** (24 chapters). We will read a total of 40 chapters, one each day during Lent. You will also be given 3 questions each day to meditate on. You are invited to write your thoughts on the given chapter.

We will meet both in person and online.

If you would like to participate, please email Pastor Lee at [slee@cumcstockton.org](mailto:slee@cumcstockton.org) or sign-up after church at the sign-up table.

### **ADULT EDUCATION NEWS - WHAT ABOUT LENT? SUNDAY, FEB 19, 9:30AM**

ONE CLASS — the Sunday Before Ash Wednesday **The foundational question for us: How can Lent be a meaningful season for me this year?** We will start with 10-15 minutes of Christian history. Then **we'll share what Lent has meant to us... and hasn't...** as children and since. Our memories will reflect the diversity of our roots — whether we grew up Catholic, Protestant (diversity among Protestants too), or without any church connections (still, we may remember wondering about “those Catholics” keeping Lent). Bring your stories and that of others. **Most of our time will be sharing, listening, and discerning together:** How might what I choose to do this Lent connect me to the Christian story and Jesus, deepen my sense of Presence, and prepare me for Easter? Join us in this informal gathering before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

### **FAMILY PROMISE OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

Central will host 3 families the week of February 19-February 26. This is the largest group we will serve. Lots of help is needed. Sign-up sheets are available TODAY after the 11:00am worship service.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up, cook meals, play games, stay overnight, and help with breakfast. Since this is a much larger group, we also need more sheets and blankets, toiletry items, wash cloths and hand towels, and food items. Note cards with specific items will be posted on a rolling board in the Atrium. Please take a card and help support this mission project. If you don't shop or like to shop, money donations are always welcome. Thank you for making this project a success. Any questions, please contact Glenda Schubert (209-479-6184) or Connie Edgecomb (209-639-9359).

### **ROTARY READ-IN**

**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! Sign-Up sheets are available at the Opportunities Table after church.

### **THE RUMMAGE SALE RETURNS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4, are the dates for our All-Church Rummage Sale hosted by the United Methodist Women. Donate kitchen items, furniture, lamps, nearly new and vintage items, plants, clothing, books, jewelry, toys, games, puzzles, seasonal items.

Donations will be accepted Monday, February 27 through Thursday, March 2. Please watch Connections and News from 3700 for times to drop off items during the mentioned week. PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF DONATIONS BEFORE THE MENTIONED DATES AND TIMES.

### **GODLY PLAY TEAM: LOOKING FOR TEAM MEMBERS**

The Godly Play Team is looking for 2 Storytellers and 4 Door Persons. There is training for both roles, and the level of commitment is flexible; however, preferred to be once a month.

Our small team needs to grow as more children are coming back and joining our church. It is an exciting time to be part of Godly Play.

In order to keep our children supported and safe we need a Storyteller and Door Person for each classroom. We can't do this without you! Please consider the following:

**Storyteller:** Tells the story for the day. There are Godly Play books that lay out the entire story and there are props for each story. Story Telling is a fun way to tell a small group of children about the stories in the Bible.

**Door Person:** Greets the children at the door, supports the storyteller while they are telling the story, helps the children get out their artwork, and greets parents at the door when it is time to leave.

**Call/Text/Email Andrea Moccia for more information!** 209-406-9669, [Moccia.andi@gmail.com](mailto:Moccia.andi@gmail.com)

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Consider being part of the Education Committee. This Committee meets once a month via Zoom. The Education Committee encompasses both children and adult education.

Do you have a passion that you feel others would benefit from? Financial Literacy? World Affairs? Local Concerns? Safety Plans in an Emergency? Learning/Teaching about Compassion, Dealing with Anxiety, or Time Management? Bonus if you know about Messy Church!!!

There is so much that we can bring to our congregation that would also benefit our local communities. Interested please **Call/Text/Email Andrea Moccia for more information!** 209-406-9669, [Moccia.andi@gmail.com](mailto:Moccia.andi@gmail.com)

### **THE SUNSHINE FOOD PANTRY**

The Special Offering on February 19, 2023, is designated to the building fund for the new Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. in Galt, CA. The Sunshine Food Pantry currently operates out of the social hall of the Galt United Methodist Church, but the need to help the members of our community continues to grow: We currently provide food for over 2,000 people per month.