

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Palm & Communion Sunday
Sunday, April 2, 2023



Artist: He Qi

GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL

Hosanna To Our King
[Ric Campero]

Chancel Choir

Sing twice then go to B

Congregation sing.

Ric Campero
c. 2015

$\text{♩} = 112$

Ho - san - na Ho - san - na Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na to our King. Ho - Bles - sed is He who comes in the name of the
Lord. Bles - sed is He who comes in the name of the Lord Ho

Repeat to beginning

GATHERING MOMENT

Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

Leader: Do you welcome Jesus?

All: Hosannah, king of the kings!

Leader: Do you know why Jesus is here?

All: Jesus is the Messiah and our Lord!

Leader: Are you willing to follow Jesus?

All: We will follow Jesus everywhere.

Leader: He is going to die on the Cross for all of us.

All: We will worship him at the Calvary! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* UMH #280

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Carol Willson

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

***PASSING THE PEACE** Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)
(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 *Hosanna to the Son of David* Chancel Choir
[by Allen Pote]

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 50:4-9 (Pew Bible NRVs, page 681) Laura Dinges (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:1-11 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 23) Laura Dinges (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Lord Needs Them" Rev. Sungho Lee
CMNS 60th Anniversary Alan Cook

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (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

THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

OFFERTORY *Gabriel's Oboe* Monica Adams
[Ennio Morricone]

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

COMMUNION

UMH #17-18

Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

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.

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 Morning 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

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

UMH #278

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Sungho Lee

*POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
[J. Bert Carlson]

Monica Adams

FLOWERS

April brings special joy to the Hastings Family as the altar flowers celebrate the birthdays of Beatrice Wooten and Julia Hastings

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

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

SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "THE LORD NEEDS THEM!"

What do you see?

When Jesus was entering Jerusalem, people thought that Jesus was a prophet or a Messiah. When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

In the Jewish tradition, a prophet was one of the anointed ones. Kings, priests, and prophets were anointed with oil when they were called to do God's works. Messiah in Hebrew simply meant an "anointed one." Kings, priests, and prophets were all Messiahs in this sense.

When people thought that Jesus was the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee, they had great expectation that Jesus would restore the glorious Davidic Kingdom of the old times. They saw Jesus performing many miracles, healing the sick, teaching and interpreting the Torah and Prophets, and proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom of God. All these actions gave them the perception that Jesus was the Messiah whom they had been waiting for. They saw the Messiah in Jesus.

What do you do?

With that expectation, they welcomed Jesus. Jesus was able to get what he needed when people thought that Jesus would be a king soon. When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

And the owner of the donkey did! He gave his donkey to the disciples whom Jesus sent. They knew that this took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Faithful Jewish people knew the old prophecy. They knew five books of Moses (Torah) and the prophets (Nebi'im). It was a fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus rode a donkey to fulfill this prophecy, which predicted the coming of the Messiah.

Then why did Zechariah say that a Messiah would ride a donkey? Donkey was a symbol of humility. Donkeys were typically used by common people for transportation, while horses were used by the wealthy and powerful. By choosing to ride a donkey, Jesus was making a statement about his humility and his identification with the poor and marginalized.

More importantly, it was also a message of peace. In ancient times, military generals would ride horses when entering a city to show their power and intention to conquer the town. In contrast, riding a donkey was a sign of peace and goodwill. By riding a donkey into Jerusalem, Jesus was sending a message of peace and reconciliation. They welcomed Jesus and accepted him as their king!

Disciples brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Would you welcome Jesus into your life?

So far so good. We have palm leaves, waiving them to welcome Jesus into our lives. We expect great victory with Jesus in our lives. However, do you know that Jesus did not promise all the money, power, fame, and success in this world?

Jesus did not guarantee us freedom from all the troubles in the world. There was a misunderstanding about Jesus. The Jerusalem people and the followers of Jesus did not understand that Jesus was going to die on the Cross to free us from the power of sin and death. The people then and now followed Jesus to get what their flesh desires. In other words, many people then and now follow Jesus to get money, power, fame, and success in this world.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people were expecting him to be a political Messiah who would overthrow the Roman occupation and establish a Jewish kingdom. They were looking for a powerful military leader who would lead them to victory and restore Israel's glory.

However, Jesus had a different calling. He did not come to establish an earthly kingdom, but a Kingdom of God. He preached about love, forgiveness, and salvation, and he challenged the religious and political authorities of his time. His message was not about political power or military conquest but about transforming people's hearts and minds. His Beatitude shows this clearly.

The discrepancy between the people's expectations and Jesus' calling led to a lot of confusion and conflict. Many people who initially welcomed Jesus as a messiah later turned against him when they realized that he did not fit their expectations. This eventually led to his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

They were disappointed by the helpless death of Jesus on the Cross. However, Jesus came to die on the Cross to save all creation! If we do not understand this calling that Jesus had, we will also be very disappointed. We will not welcome Jesus into our lives, either. We will also crucify Jesus on the Cross.

A litmus test of our faith.

When my mother started a church in Jeju Island in South Korea, she did not know how strong the wind was at a seaside village. She could not afford to build a church, but someone donated a tent for her. She put up a tent and used the tent as a meeting place. It was fine until Typhoon season started. When she heard the weather forecast, she put heavy rocks around the tent. She thought that those rocks would hold the tent down. At night, however, she felt strong winds. When she woke up, she saw the tent flying into the sky with all the other things in the tent. She held onto a rock so that she would not be flying away with the tent. Everything else was gone, gone with the wind!

She could not believe what happened at night. She just crouched on the ground and started praying. She heard God's voice saying, "The Lord needs it." It was one of the scriptures that she read the night before. It was the scripture that we read today.

She went to Seoul, the capital city of South Korea. She shared her ministry passion with other church members in Seoul. She asked for donations to build a church building, quoting the scripture, "The Lord needs it." She was

able to raise \$100,000 to build a church. People responded to her. It was her donkey. She built a brick building at the place where the tent stood. It was evidence of people's generosity and God's love.

Special Easter Offering Benefiting Children and Families at Central Methodist Nursery School

This year, the Central Methodist Nursery School (CMNS) is celebrating 60 years of serving children and their families in the community. The Easter special offering (over and above your regular tithe) will be dedicating 25 percent of the offering to the Julie Glenn Seely Scholarship Fund, named after the former director. Currently, they are serving children and families from all walks of life with a current enrollment of 94 children. CMNS has dedicated itself to supporting their families by extending the day through breakfast club, lunch bunch, and afterschool care for those bustling families who need a little extra time and care. Families use the scholarship fund when they have a drastic change during the year and wouldn't be able to maintain enrollment or have various extenuating circumstances. Your special offering will help CMNS continue to serve families with additional financial needs.

We want to raise \$6,000 for CMNS. It takes \$3,000 to give one student a scholarship for a year. Because it is their 60th anniversary, we want to raise \$6,000 (\$100 per year) to give two scholarships. Would you respond to the need with your donation to CMNS, our Central Methodist Nursery School? The Lord needs it. If you are inspired, please donate your donkey to the church with the mark, CMNS. We will raise not just money, but the next generation of leaders for our community, Stockton and beyond! Amen.



EASTER FLOWER FUND

Be a part of our worship services on Easter by honoring or remembering a family member or friend by making a \$20 donation to the Easter Fund. This loving tribute is a meaningful way to remember a loved one's legacy or recognize a special person in your life. *Yes, I / we would like to donate to the Easter Flower Fund to help decorate the Sanctuary and Fireside Room for Easter Worship Services.* **DEADLINE: APRIL 3**

In memory of _____

OR

In honor/celebration of _____

Given by _____

of Plants _____ Amount \$ _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to CUMC. Thank you.
(Flowers may be picked up at 12.30 on Easter Sunday)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY Schedule

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY • April 2

8:30am, Fireside Room

10:15am (Khmer), Fireside Room

11:00am, Sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY • April 6 • 6:30pm, Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY • April 7 • 6:30pm, Sanctuary

CAMBODIAN EASTER • April 7 • 6:30pm, Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY • APRIL 9

6:30am Sunrise Service • Central Park

8:30am Easter Worship Service • Sanctuary

11:00am Easter Worship Service • Sanctuary

FLOWERING THE CROSS IN THE ATRIUM • EASTER SUNDAY

Join in the tradition of bringing fresh flowers to place in the large empty wooden cross. Help to transform the empty cross into a beautiful Easter symbol.

THE EASTER EGG HUNT RETURNS

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship will host this year's Easter Egg Hunt in Central Park immediately following the 11:00am service.

Children in sixth grade and younger are invited to bring their Easter baskets, and hunt in Central Park and the Central Methodist Nursery School.

HELP NEEDED

The decision to host the Easter Egg Hunt was a very last-minute decision so the youth of our church need your help. Shop this week for a bag or two of wrapped candy. Reminder: the candy must fit in a plastic egg. If you would like to fill plastic eggs with your candy that would be appreciated. Drop it off at the church office between Tuesday and Thursday. If you are planning to attend the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services, there will be a basket in the Narthex for your candy donations. Plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy can be dropped off on Easter morning in the Fellowship Hall. A huge thank you for your help in making this event happen once again.

RECYCLE

Sat. Apr 1st - work day and **Sun Apr 2nd**. **NO** recycle pick up on Easter Sunday. ONLY CA CRV containers - not all plastic or glass qualify for cash payment. Money will be designated for office improvement. We get \$30-\$50 per trip - small but adds up as we continue to recycle. Collect from your neighbors to help this grow.

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING BENEFITING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT CENTRAL METHODIST NURSERY SCHOOL

This year, the Central Methodist Nursery School (CMNS) is celebrating 60 years of serving children and their families in the community. The Easter special offering (over and above your regular tithe) will be dedicating 25% of the offering to the Julie Glenn Seely Scholarship Fund, named after the former director. Currently, they are serving children and families from all walks of life with a current enrollment of 94 children. CMNS has dedicated itself to supporting their families by extending the day through breakfast club, lunch bunch, and afterschool care for those bustling families who need a little extra time and care. Families use the scholarship fund when they have a drastic change during the year and wouldn't be able to maintain enrollment or have various extenuating circumstances. Your offering will help CMNS continue to serve families with additional financial needs.

This Sunday and next Sunday, you can designate "Easter Offering" on your check. You can also put cash or a check in the envelopes in the bulletin. Please consider giving generously as you are able. If you are unable to attend a service, be sure to send your Easter Offering to: CUMC, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton, CA. 95204. Thank you.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Book Group is reading *Solito* by Javier Zamora. They will meet in the Fellowship Hall **THIS SUNDAY** at 12:30pm.

A young poet tells the inspiring story of his migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine in this gripping memoir of bravery, hope and finding family.

CARE NETWORK DIRECTORY

As many of you know, our church does not have a printed church directory. However, we want to care for our church members. We want to call when people are sick. We want to be connected to each other. So, for those who want to be in this care network, please sign your name and we will publish a care network directory and revise it every year. We will have a sign-up sheet for the month of March and publish a yearly directory.

FAMILY PROMISE GIVING CLUB

The Family Promise Giving Club started in the month of March and will go until December. Participants pledge to give a certain amount every month for the next 10 months.

\$1 per month Club
\$20 per month Club

\$5 per month Club
\$30 per month Club

\$10 per month Club
\$? per month Club (you pick the amount!)

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE! ADULTS, YOUTH, CHILDREN!

If you would like to be a part of the Family Promise Giving Club, please sign up on Sunday before or after Church.