

# Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Mother's Day*

Sunday, May 14, 2023



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

Monica Adams

### GATHERING MOMENT

Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

### INTROIT

*We Have Come To Worship The Lord*  
[by Charles Yannerella]

Chancel Choir

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

Leader: Some people are extremely spiritual in every way.

**All: They serve all gods and even set up an altar "To an unknown god."**

Leader: But we worship You, who made the world and everything in it.

**All: You are, the Lord of heaven and earth.**

Leader: You do not live in shrines made by human hands.

**All: Like our mothers, you are not far from each one of us. In you we live and move and have our being. We know you and worship YOU now.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *O Spirit of the Living God* UMH #539

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** Mary Juarez Dalton

**PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED**

**MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT** Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE** Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

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

**All Sing: *And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.***

**ANTHEM** *For The Beauty of the Earth* Chancel Choir  
[by John Rutter]

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Peter 3:13-22 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 234) Alexis Easton (8:30am)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Joe Krider (11:00am)

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN** *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* UMH #152

**SCRIPTURE** John 14:15-21 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 109) Alexis Easton (8:30am)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Joe Krider (11:00am)

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Oceans* Amy Wheeler, Cello  
[by Joel Houston, Matt Crocker & Salomon Ligthelm] Julie Hanney, Piano

**SERMON** "Mothers' Stories" Rev. Sungho Lee

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Alexis Easton (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

Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

OFFERTORY

*Amazing Grace*  
[arr. by Julie Hanney]

Amy Wheeler, Cello  
Julie Hanney, Piano

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom all Blessings Flow  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

## SENDING FORTH

\*RESPONSE

*Shalom to You  
Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.  
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving,  
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

UMH #666

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Sungho Lee

\*POSTLUDE

Monica Adams

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Andrea Moccia. "In honor of my Mother Kathy Miller and my Mother-in-Law Joan Bell. Happy Mother's Day to them and all the Mother's on this Special Day."

\* Indicates please stand as you are able.

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## SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee  
Alexis Easton, 8:30am Worship Leader  
Joe Krider, 11:00am Worship Leader  
Mary Juarez Dalton, Children's Moment  
Ric Campero, Choir Director  
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist  
David Campero, Livestream  
Mark Wharff & Steven Adams, Media  
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator  
Rupert Cooper, Audio

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## MOTHERS' STORIES

### Mother's Day

Today we celebrate Mother's Day. **Anna Jarvis** was born in 1864 in West Virginia and was one of 13 children. Her mother, **Ann Reeves Jarvis**, was a social activist who worked to improve public health and sanitation in her community, and she also organized Mother's Day work clubs to promote unity and peace during the Civil War. After her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother's memory and continue her work. She began campaigning for a national holiday to honor all mothers, and in **1914**, **President Woodrow Wilson** signed a proclamation officially recognizing **Mother's Day** as a national holiday in the United States.

So, today we will hear many mothers' stories. I shared my mother's story at the 60th anniversary of the Central Methodist Nursery School. I will just connect **mothers' lives** with the **works of the Holy Spirit**. It is said that **God wants to be with everybody, and God sends a mother to each home**. When I read the scripture for today, I realized that we could put the word, "mother" in the place of the Holy Spirit.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees the **Spirit** nor knows the **Spirit**. You know the Spirit (mother) because the **Spirit** abides with you, and the **Spirit** will be in you."

If I rewrite this it will be like this: "***If you truly love me, you will obey my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who will remain with you always. This is your mother. The world cannot receive her because it neither sees nor knows her. However, you know her intimately, for she dwells within you and will continue to be a constant presence in your life.***"

Father God created us, Son Jesus saved us, but it is the Holy Spirit, Mother, who nurtured us and guides us in daily faith journey!

### **Justification (Salvation) and Sanctification (Mission and Ministry)**

Sometimes people ask me whether salvation is a "once-in-life time experience" or an "ongoing" experience. It depends on whether we use the term salvation, in a narrow sense or in a broader sense.

In a narrow sense, salvation means justification, a one-time event. Jesus died for us on the Cross and we are justified when we accept Jesus as our Savior. In a broader sense, salvation means sanctification, a life-long journey. After we are justified and regarded as a child of God and an heir of God's Kingdom, we need to grow in God's love every day until we achieve the Christian Perfection in life. In this Sanctification journey, the Holy Spirit is our guide and nurturer. That was why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit after his ascension.

If I use an analogy, the moment we are born in the USA, we become citizens of the USA. I became a citizen of the USA by naturalization process.

The moment I did the ceremony in front of a federal judge, my status was changed from an alien to a citizen. It was an instantaneous change. It was not a gradual life-long process. However, I still have to learn English and American culture to enjoy my life here in the USA It is a life-long process. In this sense, naturalization takes a lifelong time. This is the same for naturally born citizens. They still have to learn how to speak and write in English and their culture when they grow up in their family and community.

Do not confuse the concept of Salvation with the concept of Sanctification. A conservative Christian uses the word Salvation in a narrower sense. For them, the rest of the faith journey is the Sanctification process. When a progressive Christian uses the word in a broader sense, she/he combines the concept of Justification with the Sanctification. In this case, Salvation is a life-long process. Then we will call Jesus not only as our savior but also our Lord. The Savior saves us once, but the Lord is the one who controls our lives.

Salvation is instantaneous like the moment when you say, "I Do!" in a marriage ceremony. Sanctification is a life-long process like married life. Being born in a family makes us a family member instantly. However, to be a true family member, we need to learn the culture and traditions of our family and contribute to the family finance, culture, and sustainability. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and a mother.

So, today, we are going to hear from church members, what values, what lessons, and what role models they have learned from their mothers. Let us invite our speakers.

(Testimonials from children)

I would end my sermon by reading **1 Peter 3:13-18** with **mothers** in it.

*Now who will harm you, **mothers**, if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

*Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring **children of God to the Father** God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.*

**Mothers, your pains and sufferings were not in vain. You have produced God's children for the Kingdom of God. May God bless you with hope, joy, peace, and love! Amen!**



#### **A NOTE REGARDING STAFF TIME ON SUNDAYS**

Although many staff members work on Sunday during worship services, this does not mean they are available for anything outside of their Sunday duties. For instance, David is paid to provide online live streaming service on Sunday. He is not there to be advised of issues around the campus that may need attention. If you find issues that need to be addressed, please send an email to the appropriate staff

member or committee head so it can be handled during their weekly work schedule. If it is an emergency, contact any staff member available.

Here are the emails for staff members and the committee chairs:

#### **STAFF**

**Sungho Lee, Senior Minister**

slee@cumcstockton.org

**Viseth Hou, Cambodian Minister**

vhou@cumcstockton.org

**Susie Wanden, Church Administrator**

swanden@cumcstockton.org

**Ric Campero, Director of Music**

riccampero@gmail.com

**Cherie Hudson, Sunday Campus Coordinator**

cherieh127@gmail.com

**David Campero, Facilities and**

**Maintenance/Sunday Media**

dcampero@cumcstockton.org

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Church Council: Ned Leiba**

ned@leibacpa.com

**Board of Trustees: Don Smiley**

don.smiley48@gmail.com

**SPRC: Suzi Treganza**

suzitreganza@yahoo.com

**Finance & Stewardship: Judy Avila**

judyavila@hotmail.com

**Worship Committee: Mary Juarez Dalton**

Mary.juarez.dalton@comcast.net

**Education Committee: Andrea Moccia**

moccia.andi@gmail.com

**Mission Committee: Steven Adams**

sadams.1111@outlook.com

### **WE'RE HIRING!**

Central Methodist is looking for a Part-Time Family & Youth Ministries Coordinator – 25 hours/week, including 4 hours every Sunday. This position will play a pivotal role in maintaining a comprehensive plan for children and youth (Pre-K through High School). The Coordinator will help create, design, implement, and oversee children-centered events.

The primary responsibilities for this position are:

- Oversight of programs for children, Pre-K through High School;
- Recruiting volunteers to help with children's programming; and
- Focus on creative ways to grow our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries.
- The successful candidate will work with the Church's Education Committee.

Pay: \$22 per hour.

Hours: 25 hours per week which includes 4 hours every Sunday.

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please have them contact Suzi Treganza, Chair, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, via email at [suzitreganza@yahoo.com](mailto:suzitreganza@yahoo.com).

Please note: This is NOT a remote position. On campus office hours are required.

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### **RECYCLE**

Did you celebrate Earth Day? Do your part.... any Sunday in May, bring your recycling to church. **Empty** cans, bottles & plastic (**Only CRV**). Collect from friends and neighbors. Lots of graduations and spring celebrations will provide recycling opportunities. Proceeds will help fund the office painting project.

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### **ADULT CLASS UPDATE**

The Sunday Morning Adult Class returns this Sunday, May 14, with another installment of the Adam Hamilton series on Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say. This week we'll explore what's wrong with that classic conversation stopper, "God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It!"

We hope to see you on May 14 at 9:45 am in Knoles Room 6.

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### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

The Sunday Afternoon Book Group's next read is called *Tastes Like War* by Grace Cho, joining the Big Library Read which connects readers around the world with the same book at the same time. Grace Cho grew up as the daughter of a white American merchant marine and the Korean bar hostess he met abroad. They were one of few immigrants in a xenophobic small town during the cold war, where identity was politicized by everyday details. The story is about a daughter's search, through intimate and global history, for the roots of her mother's schizophrenia. Grace learns to cook dishes from her mother's childhood in order to invite the past into the present. In this way Grace discovers not only the things which broke her brilliant mother, but also the things that kept her alive.

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### **AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISH IT OUT, LITERALLY**

For more than a dozen years, members of the Central UMC family have volunteered to serve lunch at St. Mary's Dining Room. Those we feed are single people and couples and families, the housed and the unhoused; many are unemployed or underemployed. What they have in common is that they are hungry, they need people to do what we do, and they appreciate what we do. We servers get a lot of satisfaction from serving, and a number of us have been servers for years.

This year we've increased the number of days we serve from once a month to twice a month, the second and fourth Fridays, from 11:30 am to 1pm. So, we need more servers, and no, you're not required to serve each time. We'd love to have you with us. Like to join or want to know more? For more information, contact Alan England at 209-298-8634 or at [wdchkgsgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:wdchkgsgirl@yahoo.com)