

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 28, 2023



"Pentecost" by He Qi

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

INTROIT

O Praise God In His Holiness
[by Eric Thiman]

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Chan (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

Leader: If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

All: **And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.**

Leader: If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

All: **Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.**

Leader: It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.

All: **It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.**

*OPENING HYMN

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

TFWS #2120

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Martha Shuemaker

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

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

***PASSING THE PEACE** Chris Chan (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (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 *Spirit Of God* Chancel Choir
[arr. Carl Strommen]

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-21 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 119) Chris Chan (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* UMH #400

SCRIPTURE John 7:37-39 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 100) Chris Chan (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Let Anyone Who is Thirsty Come to Jesus." Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Chris Chan (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 & 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 Chris Chan (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

OFFERTORY Monica Adams

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, From Whom all Blessings Flow* UMH #94
***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!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Chris Chan (8:30am), Jennifer Alcover (11:00am)

SENDING FORTH

***RESPONSE**

Shalom to You

UMH #666

***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.***

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Sungho Lee

***POSTLUDE**

Monica Adams

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Linda Luck in memory of Alice Anderson.

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Chris Chan, 8:30am Worship Leader
Jennifer Alcover, 11:00am Worship Leader
Martha Shuemake, 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

SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "LET ANYONE WHO IS THIRSTY COME TO JESUS."

God gave water to a thirsty people.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink" (John 7:37-39). This invitation was given during the Feast of Tabernacles, a Jewish festival held to commemorate the time when the Israelites lived in temporary shelters during their wilderness journey after the Exodus from Egypt. In the wilderness, they were always looking for water, and God provided it for them from rocks and led them to still waters. In this sense, Jesus' invitation was appropriate for those who were looking for something to satisfy their thirst.

God gives the Holy Spirit to the thirsty people.

However, we have a different kind of thirst that cannot be quenched by physical water. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, waiting for the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came, they were filled with power and began to speak in other languages. This demonstrated that God was working with diverse people, as people from all over the world heard them speaking in their native language.

It meant that God was working with diverse people.

This was the moment of the birth of the Christian Church, as three thousand people accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord on that day. The Holy Spirit gave birth to the Christian Church, and we are born again with many hopes and possibilities. However, just as a newborn baby needs to be nurtured with love and care, we also need to be nurtured by the Holy Spirit and the community of believers.

We are born again with many hopes and possibilities.

When we are nurtured in this way, we will see the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our Christian community. These fruits include the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good, such as the utterance of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, and discernment of spirits.

Love is the best fruits of the Holy Spirit

However, the best fruit of the Holy Spirit is love. Love is the foundation of all other fruits and is what enables us to live out our faith in tangible ways. So let us come to Jesus and drink of the water that He offers and let us be nurtured by the Holy Spirit and the community of believers so that we can bear fruit for the glory of God.

Practical examples of Love

In our church meetings, we have a unique opportunity to express love towards one another. Love is not just a feeling, it is an action, and it is demonstrated by how we listen to and respect different opinions. It requires us to put aside our own preferences and allow others to share their thoughts, even if they differ from our own.

Furthermore, we must not be afraid to hear concerns and suggestions that arise during the meeting, even if they are not on the agenda. Love demands that we are open and receptive to the ideas of others, even when they challenge our own views.

But love goes even further than this. It requires us to be humble enough to acknowledge when we have made mistakes, and to express our apologies to those who have pointed them out. Love is not about being right all the time, but about admitting our faults and seeking to grow in grace.

The apostle Paul speaks of love as starting and ending with patience. This means that love enables us to endure hardships and pain, all for the sake of making the other person better. It is through love that we can build up God's beloved community, even amid difficulties.

On this Pentecost, let us pray that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love, will come upon us and free us from pride, egotism, stubbornness, paranoia, false accusations, and the desire to control others. May we be transformed by the selfless love of Christ, and may our actions reflect the common good of God's beloved community. Amen.



VACATION TIME

Susie Wanden, our church administrator, is on vacation through June 7. If you need to talk to someone in the office, please contact Pastor Lee at slee@cumcstockton.org or 209-466-5046 x2. Susie **WILL NOT** be checking emails or phone messages.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Lee's Summer Bible Study Small Group during June, July, and August on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00am worship service (except for the Sundays when Book Club meets, and Annual Conference happens). The study is open to everyone. Come to the Fellowship Hall and learn about the leadership of Samuel, King Saul, and King David in the Bible.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Lee is starting a new members class in June. If you want to become a member of Central UMC, please email Pastor Lee at slee@cumcstockton.org. The class will meet 4 times according to the schedule of the participants.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CLASS

First Wednesday of June, July, and August at 6 PM via zoom. You only need to attend one class. If you are a committee chair, you are required to attend this one-hour training.

KINGDOM DREAMS, VIOLENT REALITIES

Sunday, June 4, Central's Adult Class - we begin a new series, one of the most important studies we have ever undertaken. Important because—quite literally—lives hang in the balance. For whatever reasons, violence—particularly gun violence—continues to rage out of control. In 2021, the most recent year for which complete data are available, 48,830 people in the US died of gun-related injuries according to the Centers for Disease Control. This figure includes gun murders, gun suicides and other gun-related deaths. The numbers don't include those injured with guns or otherwise victimized by gun use.

Most of us have been touched by gun violence. Thirty-four years ago, at 11:59 on Tuesday January 17, 1989, the first mass school shooting in the US took place, three blocks from our church. With a semi-automatic rifle, the shooter killed five school children and wounded 32 others, including one teacher. Members of our church family were directly impacted.

In this series we'll look at gun violence from through the perspective of our Judeo-Christian heritage. Our guide will be a little-known Hebrew prophet, Micah, who wrote in Palestine some 2800 years ago. His times were bleak economically and politically, times when the superpowers of the age roared and trounced each other, and refugees fled this way and that to avoid the violence. Opportunists took what they wanted; others were left hungry. *Sound familiar?* To this world Micah spoke:

"In days to come...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more... for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken." ~ Micah 4:1-4

Our study series will be coordinated by Becky Cameron, Central Member and member of *Cleveland School Remembers (CSR)/Brady United Against Gun Violence*. Our curriculum, *Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities*, is a Bible study produced by the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church.

Those who wish to participate will have an opportunity to create a *Soul Box*. Somewhat akin to the AIDS Quilt Project, which created quilts in remembrance of those who died of AIDS, Soul Boxes are created to remember those who have been victims of gun violence.

We hope you'll join us in Knoles Room 6 on Sunday mornings.

June 4 The Common Good, June 11 Transformation, June 18 Flourishing, June 25 What Can We Do?

The link below will go to the Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities materials we will be studying in adult ed in June. We encourage you to read the materials (a total of 45 pages) to learn more about this important topic. If you plan to participate in the class, do try to read the 7-10 page section each week. You will find the information compelling. The 4th Sunday we will learn things we can each DO to help our nation deal with the #1 cause of death among children in our country—gun violence.

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/resource-kingdom-dreams-violent-realities-bible-study>

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.

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

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.

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

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Susie Wanden, Church Administrator

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Ric Campero, Director of Music

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Cherie Hudson, Sunday Campus Coordinator

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David Campero, Facilities and

Maintenance/Sunday Media

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Church Council: Ned Leiba

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Board of Trustees: Don Smiley

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SPRC: Suzi Treganza

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