

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Communion Sunday

Sunday, May 7, 2023



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

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

INTROIT

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

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Leader: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame.

All: In your righteousness deliver me.

Leader: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

All: Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

Leader: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

All: Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Leader: Into your hand I commit my life.

All: You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

*OPENING HYMN

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

TFWS #2050

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Carol Willson

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

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

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

*PASSING THE PEACE Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Langham (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 *I'll Fly Away* Chancel Choir
[Words & Music by Albert E Brumley Choral Setting by Joel Raney]

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:2-10 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 233) Laura Dinges (8:30am)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* UMH #126

SCRIPTURE John 14:1-14 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 108) Laura Dinges (8:30am)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "You are a Chosen Race!" Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Langham (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 Langham (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 Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Langham (11:00am)

COMMUNION

UMH #23-24

Laura Dinges (8:30am), Jennifer Langham (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

One Bread, One Body
Let Us Break Bread Together
Eat this Bread

UMH #620
UMH #618
UMH #628

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Rev. Sungho Lee

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Sungho Lee

*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

*POSTLUDE

Monica Adams

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Suzi Treganza in loving memory of her late husband Jim.

The rosebud on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Darrius Jaylen Shuemade, proud parents: Darrius Shuemade and Lisa Santana, prouder Grandma: Martha Shuemade, proudest Great-Grandma: Carol Troutner.

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Laura Dinges, 8:30am Worship Leader
Jennifer Langham, 11:00am Worship Leader
Carol Willson, 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

"YOU ARE A CHOSEN RACE!"

Proof, Proclamation, and Practice of Life

On Easter Sunday, I have proven that the Resurrection of Jesus was a historical fact. After Easter Sunday, we focused on how to live as Easter people. Rev. Gary Putnam said that Easter is everywhere. CMNS celebrated its 60th anniversary to show that life grows in our church. After the proof of resurrection and proclamation of Easter, we need practical ways to live our Easter life. We need these 3 Ps of life: Proof, Proclamation, and Practice of life. We know that we are alive. However, we want to feel that we are alive. What we need is not the evidence of life but the energy and feeling of being alive.

Jesus proclaimed the life and disciples needed to practice life.

When we read John 14:1-14, it is like a dialogue between two lovers.

Jesus: "I love you!"

Thomas: "Then show me how much you love me in practical and visible ways!"

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus assured that we have life after death. He was the proof of the resurrection. He also proclaimed that the disciples had places for them in God's house also. However, the disciples wanted to know practical ways to get there.

Thomas, the one who always had doubts, asked Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” In other words, if we get to know Jesus, we already know God and we are already living in God’s house.

Two lovers continue their conversation.

Jesus: “I am with you.”

Philip: “I want more than your being with me. Introduce me to your family!”

However, the disciples were not satisfied with that abstract answer. Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” They wanted more than Jesus.

We also expressed the same desire in other ways. “Individual salvation is not enough. Going to heaven after death is abstract. I want to participate in social salvation, and I want to live in heaven here and now. Show me how to live a life as an Easter people!” Jesus had a long abstract answer. His point is simple, though. Pray to me. I will answer.

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

In the conversation between two lovers, the end is like this:

Jesus: “Tell me what you want! I will do it and show you that I love you!”

The problem is that the other lover does not know what she wants.

Why does the other lover not know what she wants?

In 1 Peter 2:2-10, Peter says that we do not know what we need to ask because we need to grow.

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Every newborn baby craves milk. Every newborn Christians long for pure, spiritual milk. Once we have tasted that the Lord is good, we want more. We want to share the joy with others. We bring others and build a spiritual house together.

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God’s own people.

We have such cravings because we “are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.” Musicians need to perform music. Artists want to express their feelings in objects. God’s own

people have urges to express their royal priesthood in practical ways. Such urges come from our identity as God's chosen people. That is why we serve Family Promise, St. Mary's Dining Room, and Orphanage in Africa.

God has given us this joy first.

We have such urges because God called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Our identity has been formed through our experience. Now we want to proclaim, "the excellence of him" who called us "out of darkness into his marvelous light."

We need partners who will grow with us together.

Peter gives us practical advice when we feel the urge to serve God and others. "Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

We need to be a part of the big picture like a piece in a 1,000-piece puzzle. We are one brick that will be built into a spiritual house to offer spiritual sacrifice acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Find a small group that you can belong to and work with others.

In our church, every ministry is done through small groups. If you want to support **Family Promise**, join the **\$1 club, \$5 club, \$10 club, or other amount clubs**. This is not just a giving opportunity. Those who donate the same amount every month will get together and pray for Family Promise and share their fellowship.

If you want to care for the members in hospitals and nursing homes or homes, join the **Membership Committee**. They have the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** team who will knit prayer shawl together. They donate yarn and time. They can meet and pray together for those recipients of the prayer shawl. They have the **Card Ministry** who will send cards to those who need comfort. They have the **Prayer Chain** who pray for those who need our prayers in times of need. They have a **visitation team** who visit people living alone.

If you want to serve the homeless population, join the **St. Mary's Dining Room**. They serve others together and have fellowship among themselves. They meet regularly together and share their team experience also at a separate time when they do not serve at St. Mary's Dining Room. Or join the **Showered in Love**. You can financially help the homeless to have a clean shower or help organize the schedule for the shower truck.

If you want to serve orphans, join the **Sierra Leone Mission**. **Francis Lahai** will guide you in Africa and share the joy of serving orphans. If you want to serve low-income families, join **SSP**. Our youth will go on a **Sierra Service Project** this summer and build houses for low-income families.

These are just a few examples of small groups. They have a clear mission purpose, gathering time, and activities. You just need to meet separately to reflect on your mission activities in the light of the words of God and have fellowship among participants.

If you do not find the right small group for you to belong to, then create one.

If those examples do not satisfy your desire, then create one for you. Some of you want to make a group for parents who have mentally ill children. I will join them. I go to NAMI parents meeting, but if there is a group in our church, I will join.

Why do I need to belong to a small group?

If you want to share the energy of the risen Jesus, belong to a small group, and enjoy the energy of the new life of the risen Jesus.

These are just a few examples of the many studies that have examined the link between loneliness and negative health outcomes.

"Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Health Behaviors at Older Ages: Longitudinal Cohort Study" by Andrew Steptoe et al. (2013) - This study, published in the Journal of Social Science & Medicine, found that social isolation and loneliness were associated with poorer health behaviors and an increased risk of mortality among older adults.

"Social Isolation and Health, with an Emphasis on Underlying Mechanisms" by Julianne Holt-Lunstad et al. (2015) - This article, published in the Annual Review of Public Health, reviews the evidence linking social isolation and loneliness to negative health outcomes, including cardiovascular disease, depression, and cognitive decline.

"Loneliness and the rate of motor decline in old age: the Rush Memory and Aging Project, a community-based cohort study" by Robert S. Wilson et al. (2012) - This study, published in the Journal BMC Geriatrics, found that loneliness was associated with a faster rate of motor decline in older adults.

You (plural) are a chosen people (to do God's ministry in the world together)!

When we serve others together, we will enjoy the energy of the risen Lord together. Do not miss this great life. Lao Zu said, "If you have depression, you live in the past. If you have anxiety, you live in the future. If you have peace, you live in present." Have peace now and love others. **Amen!**



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.

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

sadams14@comcast.net

UMW

UMW/UWF general meeting will be this coming Tuesday, May 9, at 11:30 in the Fireside Rm. It is a brown-bag luncheon. Beverage and dessert will be provided. All women are invited.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS THIS WEEK

The Sunday Morning Adult Class will take a short break this Sunday, returning on May 14 and 21 to finish the Adam Hamilton series on *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say.*

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

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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The new book choice for Central's book group is *Black Candle Women* by Diane Marie Brown. Discussion date is May 7 after the 11:00am service. The book is available on Kindle and there are some copies at the library. This is a special pick.....it was the Jenna Bush Hager book club selection for March and the author is a 1990 graduate of Lincoln High School!

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 wdchkgsqrl@yahoo.com