

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Graduate Sunday

Sunday, June 11, 2023



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Aubade
[Thomas Keesecker]

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Chan (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

Leader: In the depths of Abraham's soul, God spoke, declaring him the forefather of countless nations.

All: **We hold steadfast to the truth that God brings life to the lifeless and summons into being that which is yet unseen.**

Leader: Your descendants shall multiply abundantly, becoming a multitude of nations.

All: **Though we may face circumstances that appear insurmountable, our faith remains unshaken.**

Leader: Not a trace of doubt has swayed us from God's promise.

All: **Our faith flourishes, magnifying the glory of God, for we are wholly convinced that God possesses the power to fulfill God's word.**

Leader: When we cling to faith, God deems us righteous.

All: **Our trust in God is accounted as righteousness, for we place our faith in the One who raised Jesus, our Lord, from the grip of death. Jesus was delivered up for our transgressions and resurrected for our justification. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

UMH #632

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Mary Juarez Dalton

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Martha Tipton (11:00am)

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Chris Chan (8:30am), Martha Tipton (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.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-9 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 10)

Chris Chan (8:30am)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Martha Tipton (11:00am)

All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

UMH #451

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 8)

Chris Chan (8:30am)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Martha Tipton(11:00am)

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Follow Jesus!"

Rev. Sungho Lee

ISAIAH PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Alan Cook

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Chris Chan (8:30am), Martha Tipton (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), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

OFFERTORY

Joy
[Thomas Keesecker]

Monica Adams

***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

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**

Prelude in C
[J.S. Bach]

Monica Adams

The altar flowers are presented by Ceniza C. Japzon for the death anniversary of her husband Severino M. Japzon Jr. and in celebration of birthdays of grandchildren Eliza Grace and Nathaniel Japzon all on June 15.

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Chris Chan, 8:30am Worship Leader
Martha Tipton, 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

SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: “FOLLOW JESUS!”

Congratulations, all graduates!

Graduation is not the end of your journey. It is the beginning of a new chapter in your faith journey. Many of our ancestors had this moment of new start in their faith journey. I want to examine those moments with you and to hear your vision and calling from God. The first person we want to consider is Abraham.

Abraham was Abram before he got a new name from God.

In Genesis 17:5, God says, "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations." This would be Abram’s graduation.

The name "Abram" means "exalted father" or "father is exalted." When God called Abram, he was childless, and the name "Abram" showed his personal wish. He wanted to be a father who would be exalted by his

children. That would be an awesome personal vision. However, God called Abram to be a father of many nations, which went beyond his personal vision and dream.

The name "Abraham" means "father of a multitude" or "father of many nations." God gave this new name to Abram as a testament to His promise that Abram would indeed become the forefather of numerous nations, with descendants as many as the stars in the sky. The change in name signified a transformation, marking the shift from a solitary man to the patriarch of many nations.

The significance of the name change reflects the spiritual and relational transformation that occurred within Abram. God's renaming of Abram to Abraham was a divine affirmation, a declaration of His faithfulness and a reminder of the covenant promises. The new name served as a constant reminder to Abraham and all who would come after him of God's providence, His ability to bring life where there was barrenness, and our vision that goes beyond our personal dreams.

We must move beyond our personal agenda.

For Abram (a great father of a child) to become Abraham (a great ancestor of many nations), he had to leave his hometown, which symbolized all the things that he knew, his tradition, his customs, his familiar surroundings.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

The real question for you and me is this: Are we willing to give up what we have known for decades? Are we ready to move to the unknown world? It would be scary for some people to go to unknown territory with unfamiliar things. However, God is calling all of us to this new thing that God is creating now!

Matthew was called by Jesus.

In the New Testament, Jesus called his disciples. Many of them were from diverse careers. However, what surprised people was not the fact that they had diverse backgrounds, but the fact that some of them were so-called "sinners" who had bad reputations.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. Matthew "graduated" his tax-collector position and started a new career as a disciple of Jesus.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." What you have done in the past does not block you from living a new fresh life with God! God is always inviting "sinners" to a new relationship with God.

Those who died need resurrection, not the ones who are alive.

While Jesus was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

Spiritually speaking, sinners are dead people. Jesus came to forgive the sins of the so-called "sinners" who confessed their sins. Actually, the Bible says that we are all sinners. However, there are two kinds of sinners. Those who know and confess that they are sinners. Their sins are forgiven. Those who do not know

and do not confess that they are sinners. Their sins still block their access to God and God's blessings. Jesus who forgives sins can and will make dead people alive again!

So Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."

In the Bible, someone who had been suffering from a flow of blood would be counted as sinners. Sinners could not come closer to holy places and holy people. Her action would be regarded as audacious at best and criminal at worst. Still, she had faith in Jesus as healer and savior. She touched Jesus with courage and faith.

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. Her faith gave her new life and forgiveness. She "graduated" from her suffering and started a new life!

When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. She "graduated" from the dead status and started a new life in God.

Start a new life with faith in God who creates new creation!

Abraham, Matthew, nameless woman and girl, they all received new lives from God. One thing that was common to them was their faith in Jesus. Even in the Old Testament, the promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to him or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Congratulations, graduates! You have achieved an important milestone in your life. Now move forward with courage and faith! May God be with you always! Now let us listen to your stories, your dreams, and your visions!



BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY UMC MEN'S GROUP

Brentwood Community UMC men's group will come on June 24 at 8:30 AM to serve breakfast to anybody who comes.

Five men will come into our church kitchen and serve breakfast in the Central Cafe. All are welcome. They want to help us to start a **men's group** here at Central.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Lee started 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.

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.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CLASS

First Wednesday of 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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The book club summer read is *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. Discussion will be at dinner Friday, July 21, at 6pm at the home of Elizabeth Van Eerde. Questions or to RSVP email Elizabeth by July 14 at emve@comcast.net.

KINGDOM DREAMS, VIOLENT REALITIES

Swords Into Plowshares

United Nations, NYC

The Sunday Adult Class continues this week. *Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities* provides us a framework to discuss the scourge of gun violence in America, from gun suicides to domestic violence to mass shootings. We'll look at gun violence from the perspective of our Judeo-Christian heritage; our guide is the 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 his age trounced each other, and refugees fled this way and that to escape 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 is coordinated by Becky Cameron, a member of Central and 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. The material we're using is available in *pdf* at no cost: <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/37> Though not necessary, you may find it helpful to read Ch 2, pages 17-27.

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

June 18 Flourishing

June 25 What do we go from here?

CENTRAL UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH/UMW

CHANGE OF DATE! Our June general meeting date has been changed. Now: Tuesday, **June 20** ~ 11:30 ~ Fireside Rm, Knoles Bldg, CUMC. Brown Bag lunch. Dessert & Bev provided. We'll make our final decision on donation recipients and enjoy fellowship.

RECYCLE

Reminders...NO RECYCLE June 11 & June 18. Contact Bradburys if your committee or group wants to "own" a month & receive the money from the month's collection. \$50-\$100. More if you promote it.

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

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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