

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11TH Sunday After Pentecost Sunday, August 13, 2023



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Be Not Afraid
(arr. Mark Hayes)

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Susan Perez (8:30am), Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Perez (8:30am), Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our minds to understand your grace.

All: Come now, Lord, for we want to experience all the blessings you want to give us.

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us.

All: Come now, Lord. We are waiting and watching and listening. We are ready to encounter your glory and seek your will for our lives.

Leader: Come, Lord, and keep us alert to your calling.

All: Come now, Lord. We are ready to honor you with our very being. Amen

*OPENING HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

UMH #593

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Mary Juarez Dalton

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Susan Perez (8:30am), Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

*PASSING THE PEACE

Susan Perez (8:30am), Nedy Tovera (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 37:1-28 (Pew Bible NRSV, pages 34-35) Susan Perez (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Nedy Tovera (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** *Lonely the Boat, Sailing at Sea* UMH #476

SCRIPTURE Matthew 14:22-34 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 16) Susan Perez (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Nedy Tovera (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "What Is Your Dream?" Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Susan Perez (8:30am), Nedy Tovera (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 Susan Perez (8:30am), Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

OFFERTORY *Deep River* Dianne England, Soprano
(Mark Hayes) Monica Adams

***DOXOLOGY** *What Gift Can We Bring* UMH #87
What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Susan Perez (8:30am), Nedy Tovera (11:00am)

SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Sungho Lee

***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.

The flowers on the altar are given by Irene Muster in memory of her husband Raymond Muster.

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

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

SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?"

Dreams come from God!

Dreams come from God. In the story of Joseph, Joseph had dreams which roused envy and hostility in his brothers. Yet, Joseph's dreams were a part of God's master plan, guiding him toward his purpose.

Today, we too seek to understand God's dreams for us. Our Isaiah Partner project in Stockton endeavors to decipher God's aspirations for our community. Through heartfelt interviews with our fellow church members, we believe that God's whispers echo in their desires and wishes. We must listen intently, for in their voices, we may find the guiding light of divine dreams.

We should listen carefully.

Just as Joseph's brothers reacted with resentment, we too must be cautious not to dismiss or suppress the dreams of others, for they may hold God's intentions.

Our path forward lies in careful listening and compassionate understanding. We must listen attentively to discern God's dreams, not only for ourselves but also for our community and beyond.

By respecting and caring for one another, we will reveal the divine tapestry of dreams that interconnects us all. So, my fellow dreamers, let us embark on this journey together.

Expect challenges to realize the dream.

In our journey towards realizing our dreams, whether they are divinely inspired or deeply personal, we must brace ourselves for the inevitable challenges that lie ahead. The world, though full of potential, is not always ready to embrace transformation and change.

The story of Joseph and his brothers serves as a poignant reminder of the complexities that dreams can entail. As Joseph shared his dreams, his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, were offended and envious. They did not perceive the grand vision behind Joseph's dreams, but instead, they focused on their individual roles within it. This jealousy led them to plot Joseph's demise, hoping to eliminate the dream that challenged their sense of self-importance.

While challenges and opposition may seem insurmountable, the support and assistance of helpers can provide the strength and momentum needed to overcome adversity. Just as Joseph's brothers Reuben and Judah had the opportunity to set aside their envy and embrace their role in fulfilling the dream, so too must we learn to work together, transcending personal ambitions for the greater good.

Let us keep our focus on God who calls us to our mission.

Despite our best intentions to stay focused on our beliefs and principles, the forces of our surroundings can distract us, causing fear and doubt to cloud our minds. As a result, we may stumble and lose heart, contemplating the possibility of giving up.

In the Gospel lesson for today, we see Peter. He was first fearful, thinking that Jesus was a ghost. He could not believe that a person could walk on water. Then with the encouraging words of Jesus, he too wanted to walk on waters, and he did! But as the winds grew stronger, fear crept into Peter's heart, and he began to sink. In his desperation, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" In that instant, Jesus extended His hand, rescuing Peter from his predicament, and chided him for his wavering faith.

This story serves as a poignant reminder that despite the trials we encounter, we need not fear or despair. Jesus stands beside us, a guiding beacon of hope, extending His hand to lift us from the depths of our doubts. With unwavering faith and trust in His providence, we can weather life's storms, emerging stronger and more resolute in our beliefs.

At the end, we will see God's glory.

Somebody dreamt of a plan for the homeless families in Stockton. It gave birth to the Family Promise. We serve them and we have seen them getting out of homelessness because of the Family Promise program.

Somebody else approached the homeless issue from a different angle. They started St. Mary's Dining Room. It serves 500-600 homeless people three meals. They provide medical services, including dental services.

Because of his dream, Joseph was sold as a slave to Egypt. However, in the end Joseph would save lives. The story will continue. I will talk more about Joseph later. Come to church with much expectation on the following Sundays.

In Gospel story, we hear Peter's confession. "You are the son of God!" Through the dramatic short experience, we learned that Peter's dream was fulfilled, and it led him to his confession. It would take longer both for Joseph and for us to have the same confession. However, at the end, we will see God's glory when we have a dream.

What would that dream be?

Are you excited to guess what God's dream for us would be? Our church has served Stockton with music ministry, education ministry, and as a community center. So, I guess God's dream would have something to do with those three foci. Some ministries that provide music education to the children to bring peace and harmony to the diverse Stockton community.

God will make us fearful, worrisome, anxious, and courageous. We will have roller coaster ride with many ups and downs when we have God's dream among us. We may feel that we are serving like slaves in a

foreign land like Joseph. We may feel that we are sinking down like Peter. However, do not worry. God will provide. God will lead us. God will achieve what God started among us. We will just ride along with God. Like a professional surfer, we will ride on God's waves. Imagine how wonderful that experience would be! May God bless all dreamers! So, let me ask you once more: What is your dream?



MID YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMITT

In September (**September 10 after 11 AM service**), we will have the Mid-Year leadership summit to review our goals that we have set at the beginning of this year and to follow up.

Each committee chair needs to prepare to present the following:

1. What were the goals of the committee?
2. What have you achieved and what you have not? Why?
3. What is your plan for next year?

Finance Committee will present Budget Process:

Sep 15, Expense Budget Due Date. Plan your committee's activities and budget now with your members.

Oct 15, Pledge Drive Ends. Right after we have the expense budget, we will start a pledge drive. The Finance Committee will work on the budget for 2024.

Nov-Dec. Church Conference. The date will be given to us by the District Superintendent in September.

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT CENTRAL WILL BE LIKE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?

Join the members of the Isaiah Partnership for a light lunch Sunday, August 13, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will work together to establish some priorities and values for our church. We're going to use a process with a fancy name – The Dotification Process.

Back in January, we gathered around tables and shared Central's strengths, challenges, and opportunities. The co-facilitators of the Isaiah Partnership were able to narrow the rich feedback to three areas of focus- education, music and the church being a community center.

The members of the Isaiah Partnership need to hear from you again. Each person who attends the event on August 13 will receive five dots, and the attendees will have the opportunity to place their dots under the values that they believe are best for our church community moving forward as a way to share God's love in the community.

We can't do this by ourselves, so please plan on joining us for the Dotification meeting following the church service.

Rev. Sungho Lee and Alan Cook, co-facilitators of the Isaiah Partnership.

The Isaiah Partnership is built upon the passage from Isaiah 43:18-19a: *“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”*

It includes a process of innovation and change in and alongside our congregation.

A SUMMER MISSION PROJECT

Central has been invited to participate in Pacific’s Day of Service scheduled for August 26 during new student orientation. We have been asked to provide the items for care packages for the unhoused women of our community. Until August 20 you are invited to shop for the following items:

- Wet wipes
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Socks
- Single serving snacks
- Feminine hygiene products
- Bandages
- Comb/brush
- Pocket Packs facial tissues
- Lip balm
- Nail clippers
- Small bottles of Shampoo

Bring your donations on Sundays and place them in the red tubs located in the Knoles Building and in the Atrium. On August 26 a group of incoming Pacific students will put them together. Please consider inviting your friends and co-workers to join you in donating. If you are unable to shop and would like to donate money to help cover the cost of the purchase, be sure to include the words Day of Service on the memo line of your check.

THE OFFICE

The office area is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. If you need to make copies or need to be in the office area, please come by during the week. It is best to make an appointment as we are short-staffed and may be in a meeting, on lunch or running errands.

Also, regarding the buildings. The buildings are kept locked during the week for the safety of the staff, nursery schoolteachers and children, and groups that use the facilities during the week. The office and the buildings are closed on Saturdays. On Sunday, only buildings that are being used are unlocked – usually the Knoles Building and the Sanctuary. Again, the other buildings are kept locked for the safety of staff and others on campus. We have had several unpleasant encounters with some of the homeless on our campus and we need to be sure that everyone feels safe while on our facility. Thank you for understanding. If you have any questions, please contact Susie Wanden at swanden@cumcstockton.org.