

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP
12TH Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, August 20, 2023



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Joe Krider (8:30am), Jeni Bonilla (11:00am)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joe Krider (8:30am), Jeni Bonilla (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

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

UMH #584

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Sungho Lee

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Joe Krider (8:30am), Jeni Bonilla (11:00am)

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Jeni Bonilla (11:00am)

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Joe Krider (8:30am), Jeni Bonilla (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 45:1-15 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 42)

Joe Krider (8:30am)

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

Jeni Bonilla (11:00am)

All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

TFWS #2171

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 15:21-28 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 17)

Joe Krider (8:30am)

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

Jeni Bonilla (11:00am)

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"What Is Your Calling?"

Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joe Krider (8:30am), Jeni Bonilla (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

Joe Krider (8:30am), Jeni Bonilla (11:00am)

OFFERTORY

Touch Your People Once Again
(by Pelle Karlson)

Ric Campero, Tenor
Monica Adams, Piano

***DOXOLOGY**

What Gift Can We Bring
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?

UMH #87

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Joe Krider (8:30am), Jeni Bonilla (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.***

***POSTLUDE**

Monica Adams

The flowers on the altar are given by the Flower Committee in celebration of August birthdays!

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Joe Krider, 8:30am Worship Leader
Jeni Bonilla, 11:00am Worship Leader
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: "WHAT IS YOUR CALLING?"

It is not about me.

In a time long ago, in a humble town, lived a devoted mother. Her heart ached to see her beloved daughter tormented by an unrelenting demon. From the depths of her soul, she yearned to free her precious child from this terrible suffering. She knew in her heart that this was her "calling," her life's purpose, to save her daughter from the clutches of darkness. She would go to any lengths, even sacrificing her own life, if need be, to bring peace to her daughter's tormented soul.

News had spread that a man named Jesus, a healer and miracle-worker, was passing through their town. However, she was not a Jew; she belonged to a pagan community, and in the ancient society, a woman like her held little standing. Moreover, Jesus was known to interact only with Jewish men, but these barriers did not deter her. Her desperation and love for her daughter transcended all societal norms.

With determination in her heart, this anonymous Canaanite woman dared to approach Jesus, crying out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." However, much to her dismay, Jesus did not respond to her desperate pleas. His disciples grew irritated by her continuous appeals and urged Jesus to send her away.

But Jesus responded, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." His words might have seemed cold and exclusive, raising questions about his love and care for all people. But what many did not grasp was that Jesus intended to demonstrate how God's compassion could extend to everyone, regardless of their background.

Undeterred by Jesus' initial silence and the seemingly disheartening response, she refused to give up. She came before Jesus, kneeling at his feet, and implored, "Lord, help me." Even then, Jesus put her faith to the test, seemingly dismissing her worthiness, saying, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

Though hurt by Jesus' words, her purpose was steadfast. Her ego and pride meant nothing in the face of her daughter's suffering. Her unwavering love compelled her to respond, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

In that moment, Jesus confirmed the strength of her faith and selfless love for her daughter. Jesus praised her in public, saying, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

Her heart swelled with joy and gratitude as she felt the weight of her daughter's torment lift away. In that touching moment, Jesus taught a profound lesson to all those witnessing the encounter. He revealed that when we approach God with pure intentions and selfless love, we may need to set aside our ego and pride. It is not about us; it is about our unwavering devotion to a higher purpose.

From that day on, she spread throughout the land as a testament to the power of love, faith, and sacrifice. She became an inspiration to many, showing them that when driven by a clear and noble purpose, one can overcome all barriers and witness miracles beyond imagination. And so, the tale of the courageous Canaanite woman and her miraculous encounter with Jesus lived on, reminding people that with genuine hearts and selfless intentions, the power to change lives resides within us all.

How could Joseph forgive his brothers who sold him to foreigners as a slave?

In the ancient land of Egypt, there lived a man named Joseph whose life had been a tapestry of trials and tribulations. Like everyone else, Joseph yearned to find his purpose, his "calling," in the midst of the challenges he had faced. Little did he know that his journey would lead him to a place of profound understanding and forgiveness.

As Joseph stood before his brothers, the same ones who had once betrayed and sold him as a slave, he beckoned them to come closer. With a voice filled with both strength and compassion, he revealed his identity, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt."

The brothers, perhaps filled with guilt and remorse, must have anticipated harsh words or revenge. But instead, Joseph's words held a revelation that would change their hearts forever. He urged them not to be distressed or angry with themselves for what they had done, for he saw a higher purpose in their actions.

With a newfound perspective that only his calling could reveal, Joseph explained, "God sent me before you to preserve life. The famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors."

Joseph recognized that it was not his brothers who sent him to Egypt but God himself, using his trials and tribulations to place him in a position of power and influence. He became a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his house, and ruler over the land of Egypt. His faith in God's plan and sovereignty allowed him to forgive his brothers and see the greater purpose behind their actions.

Drawing from the wisdom of King David's words, Joseph emphasized that everything is under God's control. This is what the King David said in the 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, "Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honor come from you, and you rule overall. In your hand are power and might, and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all." Everything is under God's control. With such faith, Joseph understood that blaming others for misfortunes or failures served no purpose. Instead, he saw himself as one of God's children, protected and saved by the grace of God.

Joseph recognized that sufferings and disciplines were part of God's plan to awaken and refine his children. He knew that with God's guidance, they would find themselves in green pastures and still waters, exhibiting the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Joseph's story taught a valuable lesson: it is not our circumstances that determine our happiness or misery, but rather our calling and purpose. To discover their calling, Joseph encouraged others to ask essential questions: Why have they gone through certain events in life? What is the reason for their existence? Who needs their attention and care? What talents have they been given? What have they learned from their life experiences?

The Rev. Henry Gerhard Appenzeller's calling

In the late 19th century, a young Methodist minister, the Rev. Henry Gerhard Appenzeller, found his life forever changed by a powerful calling that would lead him to serve the people of Korea.

One day, during a chapel service, Appenzeller experienced a profound moment of clarity. He felt a divine presence enveloping him, calling him to a mission far beyond his homeland. As the message became clearer, Appenzeller knew that Korea was the place he was meant to serve.

With unwavering conviction, Appenzeller set forth on a journey across the vast oceans to a land unknown to him. Arriving in Korea, he encountered a country steeped in tradition, where the teachings of Confucianism, Buddhism, and shamanism held strong. It was a challenging and unfamiliar world, but Appenzeller's steadfast faith and determination propelled him forward.

Appenzeller's mission extended beyond preaching; he believed in the power of education to transform lives. With passion and dedication, he established schools to educate the Korean youth, fostering a sense of hope and empowerment among the people. Through education, Appenzeller sought to create a brighter future for Korea. Appenzeller was the founder of a boys' school, Paichai Hakdang—Hall for the Rearing of Useful Men in Korea in 1887.

He was one of the founders of the first Korean Methodist Church in Seoul, Chong Dong, and he also established many Protestant institutions. He served at Chong Dong as a pastor in 1887 until his death in 1902.

In 1902, at the age of 44, Appenzeller was traveling to a southern port city, Mokpo, to attend a meeting for the Bible translation. While at sea he saw a girl struggling in the sea. He jumped from the ship to save her. He drowned trying to save a Korean girl.

To this day, Appenzeller's name is revered in Korea, and his story continues to inspire countless individuals to answer the call of service, just as he did. His life stands as a testament to the power of faith, dedication, and love in bringing positive change to the lives of others.

Since its founding in the 19th century, the Korean Methodist Church has dramatically developed as one of major Protestant denominations in Korea. In 2001, the denomination comprised 5,262 churches, 1,394,514 members, and 7,298 ministers. There were six universities established under the Methodist model, including Pai Chai. In addition, the denomination had its own theological seminary, the Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul. It also had six theological institutes and 54 junior high and high schools.

On October 21, 2016, a bronze bust of Appenzeller was dedicated on the campus of Drew Theological School as a gift from the Chong Dong First Methodist Church in Seoul, South Korea.

Life with a divine calling is faithful, grateful, and joyful. Life without calling is full of doubts, complaints, and frustration. I pray that you find your calling and be grateful! May God bless you all! Amen.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

Children are invited to bring their backpacks or book bags to church in order to receive a blessing during our 11:00am Worship Service. It is a wonderful way to acknowledge the beginning of a new school year and recognize the importance of learning.

BOOK GROUP

Central book group is reading *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier. If this date works, Discussion Aug. 27 after 11:00am service. Please reply to jbtaxe@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FROM FAMILY PROMISE

A big thank you to Central United Methodist Church for providing funds to create a shade structure for the backyard of the Resource Center! Children can now safely play in the shade as it gets into the hotter part of the summer.

As you can see, the landscaping and grounds need some love and attention. Is this a project your congregation or a group you know might be interested in helping beautify? You can let us know by replying to this email or contacting jory@familypromisesjc.org

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.