

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

Candles & Carols

A Service of hope, peace, joy and love

December 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.



Our Welcome

It is great to have you join us for worship today. No matter who you are, or where you have come from, or why you are here, you are always welcome. If you are just passing through - Godspeed. If you are looking for a church home – please stay. Please join us for conversation and refreshments following the service.

PRELUDE (11:00 a.m.)

Mary's Little Boy Child
(Hairston, arr. Mark Hayes)

Monica Adams

CONGREGATIONAL CENTERING

Of Love

Jeni Bonilla

I have been in love more times than one,
thank the Lord. Sometimes it was lasting
whether active or not. Sometimes
it was all but ephemeral, maybe only
an afternoon, but not less real for that.
They stay in my mind, these beautiful people,
or anyway beautiful people to me, of which
there are so many. You, and you, and you,
whom I had the fortune to meet, or maybe
missed. Love, love, love, it was the
core of my life, from which, of course, comes
the word for the heart. And, oh, have I mentioned
that some of them were men and some were women
and some — now carry my revelation with you —
were trees. Or places. Or music flying above
the names of their makers. Or clouds, or the sun
which was the first, and the best, the most
loyal for certain, who looked so faithfully into
my eyes, every morning. So I imagine
such love of the world — its fervency, its shining, its
innocence and hunger to give of itself — I imagine
this is how it began. Mary Oliver

THE SACRAMENT OF SILENCE

Jeni Bonilla

INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Chancel Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeni Bonilla

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jeni & Ed Bonilla

Leader: We come together to worship and celebrate the essence of hope, peace, joy, and love

All: **We gather in your presence, seeking the light of hope, the calm of peace, the exuberance of joy, and the warmth of love.**

Leader: In the flickering flame of the candle of hope, may this light dispel the shadows of doubt and instill in us the courage to face the challenges that lie ahead.

All: **With the gentle glow of the candle of peace, inspire us to be peacemakers in our troubled world.**

Leader: The radiant glow of the candle of joy reminds us to celebrate the goodness that surrounds us. May this light kindle the joy within our hearts, encouraging us to share laughter, kindness, and gratitude with one another.

All: **May these candles inspire acts of compassion, generosity, and understanding, creating a tapestry of love that envelops our community. Amen.**

***OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)**

Rev. Sungho Lee

O God, you have brought us to this season when we anticipate the birth of your son.
Grant that his spirit may be born anew in our hearts.
Bestow upon us the most excellent gift of Joy to all people.
Open our ears that we may hear the angelic chorus of old.
Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts
On this Third Sunday of Advent. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH #196

THE LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE

He Came Down

TFWS #2085

*He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy, Hallelujah forevermore.*

ADVENT PRAYER (In Unison)

Jeni Bonilla

L: Let us pray.

P: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP

Jeni Bonilla

Today we would like to invite EVERYONE to write their name, mailing address, email address and phone number on the form in the red book located in the pew rack. Your name "introduces" you to others seated near you. The red book should be passed back to the center aisle seat.

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED (11:00 a.m.)

Jeni Bonilla

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Jeni Bonilla

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Jeni Bonilla

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 & THE 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.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

Jeni Bonilla

OFFERTORY

Wexford Carol
(arr. by Mark Hayes)

Rebecca Nelson

***RESPONSE**

Advent Doxology
(TUNE *Once in Royal David's City* MUSIC Henry J Gauntlett, R.G. Huff)
***Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, God's only Son.
Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.
Clear a Path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Sungho Lee

Glorious God, with these gifts accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Rev. Sungho Lee

L: Let us affirm our faith as one.
P: **We are not alone, we live in God's world.**
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Sungho Lee

(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with You!")
All Sing: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His Name Is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His Name Is called Emmanuel.

Candles & Carols

A Service of hope, peace, joy and love

Music & Orchestration by
Mark Hayes
Narration and new lyrics by
Pamela Martin

The Chancel Choir with Chamber Orchestra
Jeni and Ed Bonilla, Narrators

Prelude: Call to Light **Choir and Congregation**

O come, O come Emmanuel, Come to our hearts and in our presence dwell.
We wait in hope and peace once again
Return to us the joy of Bethlehem.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love, our darkness to dispel.

1. Light of Hope **Choir Only**

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Choir and Congregation

Come, Thou hope of our salvation, Promised One by prophets foretold.
With sincere anticipation, hearts like flowers before Thee unfold.
As the saints who came before us, patiently we call on Thee.
Lifting our voices, we join in the chorus of the faithful who long for thee.

Choir Only

Of the faithful who long for thee, Alleluia!

2. Light of Peace **Choir Only**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Lamb of God and Child of Peace, born that war and strife may cease.
Born our Brother to become, born that we might live as one.
Born that we may one day see peace on earth and harmony.
Born to us, with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Choir and Congregation

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He Lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Choir only

Sing gloria to the newborn King!

3. Light of Joy

Choir and Congregation

Born is the Child in manger small whom God has sent to save us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!

Choir only

Source of our joy, to Thee we raise our grateful songs of endless praise.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the heavens on high!
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God, peace on earth is born this night.

Jesus, the gift from heaven above, fills all our hearts with joy and love.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!

4. Light of Love

Choir only

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine.
Love came down at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

Love was born at Christmas in a simple cattle stall.
Love is born this Christmas in the hearts of one and all.

Love be our example, love be yours and love be mine;
Love for one another with the love of God divine.

5. Light of Christ

Choir and Congregation

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Choir only

Silent night, holy night, fill our hearts with Thy light.
In the darkness may we shine with the promise of love divine;
Light of heaven on earth, light of heaven on earth.

Choir and Congregation

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Choir only

The Savior is born.

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***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Sungho Lee

***RESPONSE**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come, O King of nations bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

***POSTLUDE**

People Look East
(arr. Anna Laura Page)

Monica Adams

*Indicates please stand as you are able.

Central United Methodist Church
3700 Pacific Ave. Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 466-5046 • www.cumcstockton.org

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Sungho Lee, Minister
Ed & Jeni Bonilla, Narrators
Ric Campero, Choir Director
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
David Campero, Livestream
Mark Wharff & Steven Adams, Media
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
Rupert Cooper, Audio

ORCHESTRA

<u>Flute</u> Barbara Mater	<u>Clarinet</u> Chris Steffanic	<u>Oboe</u> Alelih Galvadores	<u>Bassoon</u> Justin F. Silva
<u>French Horn</u> Ruth Brittin	<u>Trumpet</u> Lyndsey Enoki Herrera Paul Herrera	<u>Percussion</u> Bob Stover	<u>Timpani</u> Matt Kulm
<u>Violin</u> Ellie Aquino Izzy Knittley Rev. Sungho Lee	<u>Viola</u> Ellie Tatton	<u>Double Bass</u> Noah Gonzales	

Chancel Choir Director: Ric Campero
Organist/Pianist: Monica Adams

Today's cantata is made possible by your generous contributions to our General Fund and the Gary Putnam Music Enrichment Fund.

WELCOME CENTER

If you are a visitor, please use this information for your convenience!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Thursday, Dec. 21 Blue Christmas, Fireside Room, 7:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 24 Regular morning services at 8:30am & 11:00am
7pm Godly Play Family Christmas Eve Service
9pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, Dec. 31 NO 8:30 SERVICE, 11:00am service ONLY

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Dec. 22—26 Office Closed
Dec. 27—28 9:00am—12:00pm
Dec. 29 Jan 2 Office Closed



CONNECTIONS



SUNDAYS DECEMBER 24 AND 31

The congregation is being invited to move closer to the front of the Sanctuary during the season of Advent. The back five rows on either side of the sanctuary have been roped off. We hope you will get accustomed to this and move closer to the front after the first of the year.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thursday, December 21 at 7.00pm the Blue Christmas Service will be held in the Fireside Room of the Knoles Building. This service is a time when we can acknowledge the “blue” feelings we have during this Christmas season, acknowledge the reasons for them, and offer these feelings to G-d.

In the midst of the surrounding holiday cheer, some of us mourn a loved one, or feel particularly lonely in our challenges, or struggle with the dark and foggy days. Or just need to be quiet. In this 7.00pm service, we will share in song, scripture, prayer, poetry, candlelight, reflection, and solace of knowing that we are not alone.

Invite a friend who might be struggling with something. Alan Cook and David Campero look forward to greeting you at 7.00pm in the Fireside Room.

COLUMBARIUM EVENT CHRISTMAS EVE

Following up on our recent Halloween and All Saints Day events, the Columbarium Committee would like to invite members of the congregation and family members to join us at an event in the Columbarium following the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service (weather permitting). Christmas is a time when we remember loved ones who are no longer with us and we hope that this brief event and a few traditional sing-along carols will rekindle fond memories. The columbarium will be decorated with lights, cyclamens, and poinsettias and the walkway to the columbarium will be illuminated with luminaries to lead the way to the event. We hope that you'll be able to join us for this first-time event.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you turned in a pledge card, you can pick up your offering envelopes in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Sponsoring the Sanctuary floral arrangement for a Sunday worship service is a beautiful way to celebrate an occasion or honor your loved ones. Your personal dedication will be published in the worship bulletin on the Sunday of your sponsorship. There is a \$35 donation to the Flower Fund to sponsor an arrangement.

Sign up for a 2024 Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. You will be contacted the week prior to your Sunday to arrange wording for the bulletin. Your check must be received in the church office the week prior to your Sunday.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who made pledges as part of this year's stewardship campaign. So far, we have 91 pledges of time, talent and funds for 2024. We still have not reached our goal of 10% more pledges than last year so REMEMBER IT IS NOT TO LATE TO PLEDGE. We hope that some of you who have forgotten or were waiting to make your pledge will still show your commitment to Central by submitting a pledge soon. 91 pledges sounds like a good number, but we have at least twice as many active members. There is still time, and it is never too late. If you want a pledge card, they are available in the pews at church, in the narthex when you enter the church building, at the church office or from Dick Edelstein (209 351-5857). Again, MANY THANKS to all who have pledged. "You Rock."

END OF THE YEAR GIVING - If you are in a position to make an additional 2023 gift, we invite you to do so by December 31. In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2023 pledge/donation checks must be delivered by or be postmarked by December 31, 2023.

RICARDO "RIC" CAMPERO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Our own Ric Campero, Director of Music Ministry at Central, will be honored in a BIG way, as in a whole building! An opening ribbon-cutting ceremony for the **Ricardo "Ric" Campero Performing Arts Center** will be held on Thursday, December 21st in Ceres, to recognize Ric's dedication as a music educator throughout the Ceres Unified School District for over 38 years.

After teaching instrumental and choral programs at Ceres High School for 25 years, he decided to transfer to the district's elementary schools and taught general music and band until his retirement in 2018. Ric viewed this as his "promotion", and says he felt it was important to work with elementary students and encourage them to continue and enroll in junior high and high school music programs.

Julie, Melinda and David are proud and excited to witness this well-deserved recognition! By the way, Ric actually has his own copy of the construction blueprints and is happy to show-and-tell!

Here's a couple of tid-bits about Ric's career (just for fun):

- Ric began his teaching experience back in 1980 at Walnut Grove Elementary School (Sacramento County), where the kindergarteners called him "Mr. Ric".
- At Ric's interview for the job at Ceres High School back in 1987, the panel asked "If we brought you to the music room and asked you to play an instrument, which one would you choose?" Ric's answer, "Choose any instrument, and I'll play it." And if that wasn't enough...
- The panel asked him to sing the Star-Spangled Banner. He did, of course,...stunned panel.

BOOK GROUP

The Book group met Dec. 10th for another informative discussion. The current read is River Sing Me Home by Eleanor Shearer - a mother's gripping journey to find her stolen children in the aftermath of slavery. Next discussion date is Jan. 7, 2024.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Chili Cook off featuring Snap Jackson and the Knock on Wood Players returns to the Fellowship Hall Sunday, January 28 at noon. Tickets go on sale soon. Watch for more information in the coming days.

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 29TH 2024!

Rotary Read-In, 10:00 am - Cleveland and Team Charter Schools - Sign-ups will start in January.