

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

A Reconciling Congregation

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024 11:00am



GATHERING

PRELUDE	Prelude in Classic Style [Gordon Young]	Monica Adams
INTROIT	<i>Christ Is Arisen</i> [Karle Erickson]	Chancel Choir Central Brass
GATHERING MOMENT		Alan England
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Alan England
Leader:	The stone stood aside. The open mouth of the tomb gaped in amazement. The angelic announcers delivered their message.	
All:	“Jesus is not in this tomb”	
Leader:	Women bearing spices, followers of the One who had been crucified, turned from their troubled trembling to question with hopeful hearts.	
All:	“Is it possible that Jesus lives?”	
Leader:	God’s answer offered the strongest confirmation of hope and the boldest affirmation of life ever given. “Jesus is risen!”	
All	“Risen to proclaim God’s power. Risen to show God’s love.”	
Leader:	Christ is risen!	
All:	Christ is risen indeed!	
*OPENING HYMN	<i>Christ the Lord Is Risen Today</i>	UMH #302 Central Brass

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Alan England

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Alan England

*PASSING THE PEACE

Alan England

(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

Risen Indeed!

[Allen Pote]

Chancel Choir
Central Brass & Timpani

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Mark 16:1-8 (Pew Bible NRVs, page 54)

Alan England

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Jesus Is Risen!"

Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alan England

After a concern, the worship leader will say "**In your mercy,**" and the congregation will reply, "**Lord, hear our prayer!**"

After a joy, the worship leader will say "**In your mercy,**" 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

Alan England

OFFERTORY

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

[arr. Mark Hayes]

Monica Adams
Central Brass

*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

Alan England

SENDING FORTH

INVITATION		Ric Campero
*CLOSING HYMN	<i>Easter People, Raise Your Voices</i>	UMH #304
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Sungho Lee
CLOSING SONG	<i>Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah</i> [By George F. Handel]	Chancel Choir & Congregation Brass & Timpani

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee, Minister
Alan England, Worship Leader
Ric Campero, Choir Director
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
David Campero, Livestream
Steven Adams & Mark Wharff, Media
Rupert Cooper, Audio

CENTRAL BRASS QUINTET & TIMPANI

Alex Maldonado, Trumpet
Joe Streeter, Trumpet
Ruth Brittin, French Horn
Matthew Miramontes, Trombone
Amanda Cardwell, Tuba
Brian Kendrick, Timpani

WELCOME CENTER

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

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 am Worship Service at the Fireside Room in the Knoles Building in English
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am behind the Sanctuary choir room
10:15 am Worship Service at the Fireside Room in the Knoles Building in Cambodian language.
11:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary in English.
- Childcare (under age 5) is available in the Knoles building. A friendly caregiver welcomes you!
 - Godly Play (leave 11 am service Following Children's Moment)

Wednesday Nights

7:00 pm 3700Yth Group in the Youth Rooms upstairs in the Knoles Building.

Sermon in a nutshell: "Jesus is Risen!" Easter Service (Mark 16:1-8)

Empty Tomb

The Bible told us that the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid was empty. No body disputed the fact that the tomb was empty. This is the biblical account in Mark 16:1-8.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Empty tomb mystery

In scrutinizing the enigma of the empty tomb following the crucifixion of Jesus, various conjectures have been posited to explicate this pivotal event. Chief among these theories are:

Firstly, the proposition that the disciples clandestinely absconded with the body is met with logical skepticism. The formidable barrier of the heavy stone obstructing the tomb's entrance, typically requiring a cohort of 5-6 men for displacement, coupled with the vigilance of Roman sentinels overseeing the site, renders such a feat implausible. Furthermore, the disciples' incredulity upon learning of the empty tomb belies the notion of their complicity in an elaborate charade.

Secondly, the notion of Roman soldiers pilfering the body lacks cogency upon closer examination. Not only would such an act incur severe punishment upon discovery of the empty sepulcher, but the soldiers possessed the means to refute any claims of Jesus' resurrection by presenting his remains.

Similarly, the suggestion that Jewish adversaries orchestrated the disappearance of the body fails to withstand scrutiny. Like their Roman counterparts, they too could have easily produced the body to discredit assertions of Jesus' resurrection.

A more incredulous assertion posits that Jesus, though crucified, somehow managed to survive his ordeal and absconded from the tomb. However, the severity of crucifixion, historically recognized as an invariably fatal punishment, discounts the plausibility of this scenario. Moreover, the physical exertion required to displace the stone seal and effectuate an escape is incongruous with the condition of one subjected to such torment.

Finally, the proposition of Jesus' resurrection itself emerges as a compelling explanation. This hypothesis posits that Jesus, in a transcendent state following his crucifixion, was able to traverse physical barriers and manifest himself to his followers. The accounts of his appearances in various locales, unimpeded by locked doors, serve to bolster this assertion. Moreover, such a narrative accord with theological tenets regarding the nature of resurrection and the promise of an incorruptible body in Christian eschatology.

In summation, while various conjectures have been proffered to account for the enigma of the empty tomb, the hypothesis of Jesus' resurrection emerges as the most cogent explanation, supported by both historical accounts and theological considerations.

Women (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome) Witnesses

In antiquity, societal norms often marginalized the credibility of women as witnesses, favoring men of esteemed status to validate accounts. However, in the narrative of the empty tomb, the initial report of the resurrection by Mark features women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, whose societal standing would

typically render their testimony suspect. This unconventional choice suggests a commitment to truth rather than fabrication, as employing a male witness of higher societal regard would have been more persuasive if the intent were to fabricate a story.

Moreover, their genuine astonishment upon encountering the angel underscores the authenticity of their experience. Their disbelief in the possibility of resurrection, evident in their reaction, militates against the notion of a contrived narrative. The inclusion of such details detracts from the credibility of any attempt to dismiss the resurrection as a fabrication, as it would be counterintuitive to incorporate elements incongruent with prevailing beliefs if the aim were deceit. Thus, their encounter with an angel stands as a compelling testament to the historicity of the resurrection.

Jesus is Risen!

The conjunction of the physical evidence of the empty tomb and the testimony of credible witnesses like women provides a compelling foundation upon which to place faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and, by extension, in the promise of our own resurrection after death.

Jesus, as the inaugural beneficiary of resurrection, serves as the harbinger of our own eventual triumph over death. His resurrection not only validates the veracity of his teachings but also extends a promise of eternal life to all who believe in him.

Thus, the empty tomb stands not as a symbol of finality, but rather as a portal to a new realm of existence. Death loses its sting, and the prospect of an everlasting communion with God becomes a tangible reality. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can embrace the assurance of our own resurrection and the prospect of an eternal life filled with divine grace and fellowship.



THE JOY OF NEW LIFE

Easter giving inspires hope and connection in this season of renewal. Our Easter offering will support Central's commitment to serving our community through our programs. In addition, a portion of the Easter offering will be given to St. Mary's Community Services. St. Mary's goal is to move individuals and families off the streets and provide daily necessities and essential services to get them permanently housed. When you place your donation in the offering plate today, please make sure that on the memo line of your check that you write Easter Offering on the memo line. If you are giving cash place it in the offering envelope found in the pew and write Easter Offering and your name on the outside of the envelope. Financial gifts may also be mailed to CUMC, 3700 Pacific Ave. Stockton, CA. 95204

VISIT THE COLUMBARIUM DURING THE EASTER SEASON

In keeping with the start of Spring and our desire to honor and remember our families at this very special time of the year, the Columbarium Committee recently completed a workday to spruce up the Columbarium. We planted fresh flowers and plants, trimmed the Japanese maples, and washed down the benches and walkways. Please consider taking a little time before or after one of the Easter services – or whenever the spirit takes you – to visit the Columbarium and the loved ones who are inurned or memorialized there. You're also encouraged to pick up a brochure on Easter Sunday to learn more about the facility and to consider whether it might meet your future needs. Finally, feel free to get more information or pose questions to any of the members of the Committee: Glenda Schubert (Chair), Jeri Fields, Van-Ha To-Cowell, Signe Holly, Steve Adams or Richard Larrouy.

FAMILY PROMISE OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Time seems to go so quickly. About a month ago (February 11-18), Central hosted two families from Family Promise of San Joaquin County. Guess what? It's that time again. This time Central will host four families (14 adults and children). Our week begins Sunday evening, April 14.

Signups begin April 7, in the Atrium, after the 11:00 am Worship Service. Once again Glenda Schubert and Connie Edgecomb are asking for your help. We need volunteers for the following tasks:

1. Overnight volunteers
2. Room set up volunteers
3. Room take down volunteers
4. Cooks
5. Bakers
6. Volunteers to clean dirty linen
7. Van Drivers (ask Connie)

As usual we will need food items. Printed index cards with the needed items will be available. If you cannot shop, don't like to shop, cash donations are always welcome.

We have never hosted four families before. This will be a challenge but lots of fun. Please help us make this a welcoming experience for the families.

If you have any questions, call Connie (209) 639-9359 or Glenda (209) 479-6184.

SUNDAY BOOK GROUP

The new book is Hidden Valley Road by Robert Kolker. It's a study of schizophrenia, a work of nonfiction written in novel form. Sungho has confirmed this is a good book for us...not a textbook. It was written in 2020 so current and the library has many copies. Discussion date will be April 21st.

PARENTS GROUP

Join us for community and fellowship and support on the incredible journey of parenthood. Please sign up below and we will send you a reminder of our monthly call. Our plan is to meet the Third Tuesday of every month from 8:00-9:00 pm on zoom. For questions, please call or text Jennifer Robles at 209-969-2935

Link to google form to sign up for reminders: <https://forms.gle/QYsJSorcs9BkqzxN7>

FELLOWSHIP TIME

The Missions Committee is committed to providing Fellowship Time as often as possible as long as nothing else is happening after worship. So, be sure to head over to the Fellowship Hall following worship for coffee, goodies, and friendly faces. If you have questions about how you can participate, call Jackie Bennett at 916-261-1225. Can't wait to see you!

CMNS SURVEY

Central Methodist Nursery School (CMNS) has been serving the Stockton community for 60+ years. It is a play-based early childhood education preschool program. CMNS currently enriches the lives of children ranging in ages from 2-5 years old.

CMNS is currently seeking input from the Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) community regarding involvement and the connection between the Church and School. A committee comprised of Alan Cook, Rachael Green, Heidi Thumlert and Lani Schiff-Ross have been working on developing guidelines for CMNS in relationship

to CUMC. They have been looking at what the connection is between CMNS and CUMC and would like to hear from you.

Please take this brief survey to help gather valuable informative data. Paper copies of the survey will also be available for completion after the 11:00 worship service on Sunday 3/24 and 3/31.

At the end of the survey, if you choose to provide your name/contact number, you will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 Starbucks gift card. Your name will not be associated with any answers or shared outside of the committee.

We will be accepting responses until Monday April 1, 2024.

We appreciate your valued input as we seek to continue CMNS' positive impact on not only CUMC but the greater Stockton community.

Here is the web address to take the survey online: <https://forms.gle/fmPASaDnKdvk3EZaA>