

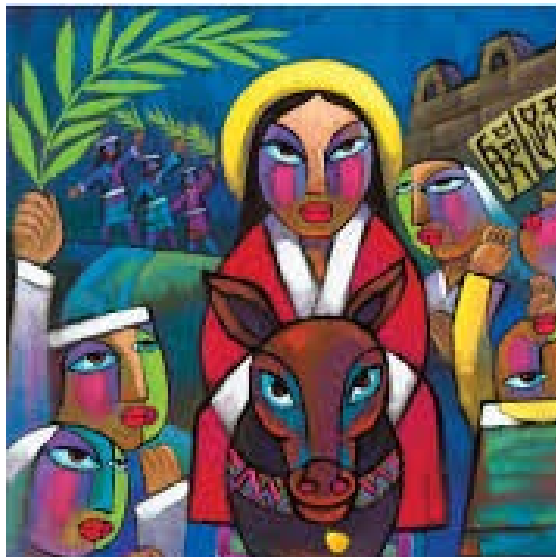
Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 2024



Artist: He Qi

GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL

Hosanna To Our King
[Ric Campero]

Chancel Choir

*Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to our King.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to our King.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*
(repeat as needed)

GATHERING MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am), June Sullivan (11:00am)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Chan (8:30am), June Sullivan (11:00am)

Leader: We cheered as we carpeted his path with garments and palm branches

All: **We shout out our hopes of freedom and called upon Jesus to release us from all that held us in bondage.**

Leader: We stood in amazement at the dust-covered donkey rider, not quite understanding the power of his humility or the force of his love

All: **As we worship today, may we give only glory, love, and honor to the God who comes into our midst. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

UMH #280

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Martha Shuemaker

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT Chris Chan (8:30am), June Sullivan (11:00am)

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS June Sullivan (11:00am)

***PASSING THE PEACE** Chris Chan (8:30am), June Sullivan (11:00am)
(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with You!")

All Sing: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* UMH #334
***There's a sweet sweet spirit in this place and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face and I know that it's the presence of the Lord.***

ANTHEM *Lift High The Palms* Chancel Choir
[by Joseph M. Martin] Ria Patel, Soprano

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Mark 11:1-11 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 47) Chris Chan (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. June Sullivan (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* UMH #278

NOMINATION OF INEZ POPE AS ORGANIST EMERITUS

We have been blessed with a rich history of music ministry at Central. Many different pastors, many different choir directors, many different Chancel Choir members. But only one Inez Pope! In fact, the beautiful organ we hear Monica play is named *The Inez Pope Organ* in honor of Inez's life-long dedication to church music here and in the Stockton community. Inez's many organist colleagues in the community, the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and beyond, such as the late Dr. Fred Swann, past president of the National American Guild of Organists, admire her many years of service to her church. We want to continue to honor Inez and thank her for her 60-plus years of ministry at the organ; many of which were at the organ here at Central. Inez is here with her family this morning and continues to show her sparkle and love of music.

Inez, we are blessed that you and your family are present today. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart called the organ "the King of Instruments" and he would probably rejoice in your enthusiasm and your many dynamic presentations. Inez, it is with gratitude and respect, we bestow you the title of "Organist Emeritus" at Central United Methodist Church. God Bless you.

SERMON "We Have Hope In Jesus!" Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Chris Chan (8:30am), June Sullivan (11:00am)

PASTOR'S 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), June Sullivan (11:00am)

OFFERTORY *Gabriel's Oboe* Monica Adams

[Ennio Morricone]
*DOXOLOGY *Bless Thou the Gifts* UMH #587
*Bless thou the Gifts our hands have brought; bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in thy hand.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Chris Chan (8:30am), June Sullivan (11:00am)

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION Rev. Sungho Lee

*RESPONSE *Spirit Song* UMH #347
*O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,
let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.*

*POSTLUDE *Kleine Praelude in C #1* Monica Adams
[Hermann Schroeder]

***Please stay after church for cake in the Fellowship Hall to honor
Inez Pope "Organist Emeritus"***

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Chris Chan (8:30am), Worship Leader
June Sullivan (11:00am), Worship Leader
Martha Shuemade, Children's Moment
Ric Campero, Music Director
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
David Campero, Livestream
Mark Wharff & Steven Adams, Media
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
Rupert Cooper, Audio

Sermon in a nutshell: "WE HAVE HOPE IN JESUS!" Mark 11:1-11

Death is not the end of life.

My son has suffered mental illness and has had many strong temptations to commit suicide, but he did not actually attempt one. I asked him how he resisted such temptations. He said that he was not sure whether suicide would end his suffering.

"I can't be certain," he confessed, "whether death would truly end my suffering."

His reasoning was both profound and deeply personal. Contemplating the possibility of an afterlife, he weighed the stakes with remarkable clarity. If this existence were the sole chapter of our existence, if suicide promised

relief from his anguish, he would be tempted. Yet, if there lingered even a sliver of doubt, a mere 1% chance that heaven and hell were more than mere conjecture, he couldn't risk his eternal fate.

"To gamble with eternity," he solemnly reflected, "is a wager I dare not take."

If you do not have any faith in eternal life, like my son, you can still acknowledge that you do not know for sure about the absence of eternal life, either. You can still choose the safe side of reasoning like my son did.

A symbolic place, Bethany of the Mount of Olive

Now I want to give you some information that you can use to make your decision.

The Bible says that Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives.

Based on a passage in Zechariah (14:4), Jewish tradition holds that the Messiah will arrive at the Mount of Olives. This belief imbues the Mount with a sense of anticipation and hope for the future.

Another tradition linked to the Mount of Olives is the belief that the resurrection of the dead will commence there. Many Jews believe those buried on the Mount will be the first to be resurrected when the Messiah comes. This has led to a vast ancient cemetery being located on the slopes of the Mount.

Beyond these specific beliefs, the Mount of Olives has served as a place of prayer and contemplation since ancient times. King David himself is said to have frequented the Mount for prayer.



The Mount of Olives holds a unique place in Judaism as a place connected to hope for the future, the potential for spiritual renewal, and a final resting place for those awaiting the arrival of the Messiah and the ultimate resurrection.

Jesus entering Jerusalem from this specific location signified that Jesus meant to emphasize the resurrection of the dead.

Bethany was the home of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Jesus' entry point being close to a place associated with a miracle strengthens the themes of life and triumph over death associated with his coming.

Even though Lazarus died again after Jesus made him to come back to life, this miracle was the significant hope for eternal life and resurrection.

Prophecies give us another layer of information.

Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

In the Book of **Zechariah (9:9)**, a prophecy mentions a coming king riding on a donkey. Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey from Bethphage fulfills this prophecy, demonstrating his messianic identity to those familiar with the scriptures.

When the disciples went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway, they untied it. Then some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" as Jesus predicted. They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

This little anecdote shows us that Jesus knew already what would happen. All the things happened as Jesus told. In the same line of reasoning, resurrection would also be true as Jesus told.

When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” People accepted Jesus as the Messiah that the prophets foretold.

Stay alive now and shout Hosanna!

Accept Jesus as people did. Shout Hosanna! If you are not sure what is waiting for you after life, take the words of Jesus, and accept him as your Lord and Savior. Jesus is the Son of God and knows what comes after life. He was crucified and resurrected. He is the right one who can tell us all about eternal life. He said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:1-3). Let us praise Jesus and follow him. He will meet us at the empty tomb! Amen.

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.

CONNECTIONS



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

6:30am • SUNRISE SERVICE • Columbarium

10:15am • CAMBODIAN WORSHIP SERVICE • Fireside Room

11:00am • EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE • Sanctuary

NO 8:30AM SERVICE

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>

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/QYsJSorcs9BkqxzN7>

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.

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.

LUNCH ON US

The March Lunch on Us is scheduled for this Wednesday, March 27 from noon - 1.00pm. in the Fellowship Hall. This is the fifth lunch hosted by our Isaiah Partnership team for the seasoned citizens of our community. Guests can join us for a free lunch in the Fellowship Hall or it can be taken out. We hope that the attendees will bring a friend. Reservations are to be sent to Alan Cook (alancook4138@gmail.com), or sign up after church today. The funding for this month's lunch is from the generosity of the people of Central through the 2023 Christmas offering. If you would like to make a donation to continue this program gifts are welcome. Checks should be made out to CUMC and on the memo line write Lunch on Us.

EASTER OFFERING

Your gift to Central at Easter enables us to support our programs and helps to keep our budget balanced. This Easter the Mission Committee has chosen St Mary's Community Services to receive fifty percent of the Easter offering. Our gifts will enable the staff and volunteers of St. Mary's Community Services to provide essentials - food, shelter, showers, and clothing to the hundreds of guests they serve each day. Drop your gift in the offering plate today or next Sunday. Gifts can also be mailed to CUMC, 3700 Pacific Ave. Stockton, CA. 95204; please write Easter Offering on your check.

EASTER FLOWER FUND

Be a part of our worship services on Easter by honoring or remembering a family member or a friend by making a \$20 donation to the Easter Flower Fund. This loving tribute is a meaningful way to remember a loved one's legacy or to recognize a special person in your life.

*Yes, I / we would like to donate an Easter plant / flower to help decorate the Sanctuary and Fireside Room for Easter Worship Service. **DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MARCH 26.***

In memory of _____

OR

In honor/celebration of _____

Given by _____

of Plants: _____ Amount \$ _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to CUMC. Fill out this form and return it to the church office.

(Flowers may be picked up at 12:30pm on Easter Sunday)

