

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP
4th Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 10, 2024



*Indicates please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

PRELUDE		Monica Adams
GATHERING MOMENT		Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
INTROIT	<i>The Lord Is in This Holy Temple</i> [by Lloyd Larson]	Chancel Choir
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
	LEADER: We gather bringing life with us to this morning.	
	PEOPLE: We travel with Jesus as our guide.	
	LEADER: We are on a journey of faith.	
	PEOPLE: We open to God's presence as we pray and sing, listen and learn, and we trust the guidance of the Spirit to go with us into our activities of the coming week.	
*HYMN	<i>O Holy Spirit, Root of Life</i>	TFWS #2121
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		Carol Willson
MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT		Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED		
RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS		Alexis Easton (8:30am) Joe Krider (11:00am)

***PASSING THE PEACE** Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (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 *God So Love The World* Chancel Choir
[by Bill Wolaver] Beatriz Sanchez, Soloist

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE John 3:14-21 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 94) Alexis Easton (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Joe Krider (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** *What Wondrous Love Is This* UMH #292

SHARING "A Day in My Life" Elaine Hanley, Youth Director
(Our pastor is leading a small group leader training in Contra Costa UMC
and our new youth director is sharing her story with us today)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

LENTEN PRAYER Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
After four months of constant conflicts, innocent lives of both sides died. Israel has repeatedly opened fire at Gazans while Hamas has not released the hostages. The death toll has reached 30,000 lives but is expected to rise with every minute that passes. Hamas keeps the hostages as their means of holding their leadership and power.

God of creation, we come before you lamenting like the Psalmist, "Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy" (Psalm 130:1-2). Hear our cries and deliver us from modern day pharaohs. We plead, O Lord, for an immediate ceasefire and the release of the hostages from the yoke of terror. Lord in your mercy... hear our cry!

LORD'S PRAYER Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)
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 Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

OFFERTORY Monica Adams

***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 Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Alexis Easton (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

*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

Monica Adams

SERVING YOU TODAY

Elaine Hanley, Youth Director, Guest Speaker
Alexis Easton (8:30am), Worship Leader
Joe Krider (11:00am), Worship Leader
Carol Willson, 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



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Join us for a special event on March 16th, Saturday, from 9 AM to Noon: our Leadership Summit! It's a time to gather and delve into our mission and ministry priorities. You won't want to miss the opportunity to hear about the exciting initiatives each committee is undertaking and planning for the future. Save the date and be part of this important conversation!

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>

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Rosie Bonilla and Julia Robles are Girl Scouts with Troop 50 and will be selling Girl Scout cookies after church this Sunday, March 10. Girl Scout cookies are \$6 per box and proceeds support troop activities such as science, nature, and service programs.

GREETINGS, BELOVED MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION!

The first movie night will be on Friday, March 15 at 5:30pm in the Fireside Room. **The movie: The Bank of Dave.**

Join us for an enriching opportunity to share and explore the spiritual dimensions of film within a community of fellow believers. Just as our book club delves into the depths of literature, our Movie Club seeks to engage in thoughtful discussions surrounding movies and their significance to our Christian journey.

If you're eager to be part of a small group of movie enthusiasts, we warmly invite you to sign up! Together, we'll select films that resonate with our faith and gather to unpack their themes, messages, and insights.

Let's embark on this cinematic adventure together!

THEY ANSWERED THE CALL!

A big THANK YOU is extended to Diana Luck and Alexandra Pillsbury, who answered the call to ministry! Starting May 5, this mother-daughter duo will serve as the Communion Stewards for the 11:00 a.m. service. The sharing of their time and talents is greatly appreciated!

WOMEN OF FAITH

(formerly United Methodist Women)

Thursday March 14th, **11:00am** in the Fireside Room. Note....earlier time and meeting date now the 2nd Thursday of the month. ALL women are invited to share lunch and fellowship. Food provided by the SUSD students. Come and enjoy this time together.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER?

The Missions Committee is undertaking a search to recruit a person to take Dianne England's place as Angel Tree Coordinator.

If you are interested in learning more about this position, contact Alan Cook (alancook4138@gmail.com). If you are interested in helping with this program but do not want to serve as coordinator let Alan know of your interests.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

Central's Sunday morning Adult Class continues this week. *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, is a video series by United Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton. We'll explore questions that often trouble thoughtful

Christians. Hamilton takes the questions seriously and responds in ways many will find helpful. We'll listen to Hamilton, and then we'll share how we've felt about these matters. We hope you'll join us Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Knoles, Room 6.

PRAYER SHAWLS NEEDED!

Calling all crocheters and knitters! The need for shawls has been great in the past several months so our stock of prayer shawls has dwindled. If you feel the call to provide a shawl to our ministry, please consider making one. All it takes is 3 skeins of soft acrylic yarn, size 10.5 knitting needles or N-13 crochet hook. Once completed bring to church and we will get them blessed and packaged for delivery. For any questions, please email or call Linda Newhall 209-601-9239, L.brackin@comcast.net.

SUNDAY BOOK GROUP

The book group is reading *The Women's March* by Jennifer Chiaverini. This is a novel of the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession (a crucial but little-remembered moment in American history). Discussion date - March 17th.

ROTARY READ IN SUMMARY

On February 29, a group of Centralities were part of the Annual Rotary Read in. Irene Muster, Linda Newhall, Carol Wilson, Rupert Cooper, Dick Edelstein, Alan Cook and I had the pleasure of reading to students at our neighborhood Cleveland School. We were greeted by staff and offered bagels, coffee, and juice before heading off to our respective classrooms. In the second-grade classroom in which I read; I shared that I had attended Cleveland school from kindergarten to third grade...back in the sixties (before these children were born as one of them pointed out!) It is always a wonderful experience for all involved, students, teachers and readers alike. Thank you to my team this year. I look forward to next year and including you and others to read again. With gratitude, Martha Shuemaker

LENT: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

Lent is a 40-day period of solemn observance in the Christian calendar that comes before Easter. It's a time for reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth, commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and being tempted in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

Lent is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter, the holiest day in the Christian calendar. It's a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and a call to follow his teachings. By taking time for reflection, repentance, and renewal, Christians can deepen their faith and prepare for the joy of Easter.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and ends on Holy Saturday, March 28th, the day before Easter Sunday.

There are many ways Christians observe Lent, but some common practices include:

Prayer and reflection: Christians may spend more time in prayer and meditation, attending special church services, and reading scripture.

Fasting and abstinence: Many Christians choose to give up something they enjoy, such as meat, sweets, or social media, as a way to focus on their spiritual life. Others may choose to fast from food or drink for certain periods.

Almsgiving: Lent is a time to remember those in need and to practice generosity. Christians may donate to charity, volunteer their time, or perform acts of kindness for others.