

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 14, 2024



*Indicates please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Chan (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

Leader: One by one, family by family, people by people, we come together.

All: **Great with a love for our Creator that comes to life through word and action.**

Leader: Hour by hour, day by day, our faith can take form and grow.

All: **Sharing together in the worship of God, our spirits stretch and our service strengthens. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

Thine Be the Glory

UMH #308

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Carol Willson

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Chris Chan (8:30am), Joe Krider (11:00am)

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

Joe Krider

*PASSING THE PEACE

Chris Chan (8:30am), Joe Krider (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.*

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
[arr. Craig Courtney]

Chancel Choir

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:36b-48 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 91) Chris Chan (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Joe Krider (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** *Alleluia, Alleluia* UMH #162

SERMON "You are witnesses to the risen Jesus" Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Chris Chan (8:30am), Joe Krider (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), Joe Krider (11:00am)

OFFERTORY Monica Adams

***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 uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Chris Chan (8:30am), Joe Krider (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 Van-Ha To-Cowell. "In loving remembrance of our wedding anniversary, April 11, 1981."

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Chris Chan, (8:30am) Worship Leader
Joe Krider, (11:00am) Worship Leader
Carol Willson, Children's Moment
Ric Campero, Choir Director
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
David Campero, Livestream
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.

"You are witnesses to the risen Jesus"

Luke 24:36b-48

Following Jesus

Our Conference vision statement for this year is "Following Jesus." How can we follow Jesus? Let us see what Jesus did to follow him.

1. Jesus gave answers to all questions and showed proofs to all doubters.
2. Jesus laid foundations on the traditions and visions.
3. Jesus promised God's help, the Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus gave answers to all questions and showed proofs to all doubters.

Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to his disciples was met not with jubilation, but with trepidation. Startled and gripped by fear, they grappled with the surreal nature of his presence, mistaking him for a specter. Yet, with gentle reassurance, Jesus dispelled their doubts, inviting them to behold the tangible evidence of his corporeal existence—his hands, his feet.

In a poignant gesture, he further affirmed his humanity by partaking of a simple meal—a piece of baked fish—before their eyes. In this act, Jesus bridged the gap between the ethereal and the earthly, reaffirming the intimate connection between the divine and the material realm.

When we follow Jesus, we want to have communication with others in a way that others can accept our messages. Jesus gave tangible evidence, understood their doubts, and shared meal-time with them.

When people ask questions about our mission and ministries, we can adopt the same gesture. How can you find funds for your ministry? What is the process of selecting a company or an employee? Who is involved in this mission and ministries? People ask questions not to judge or criticize the ministries, but they are curious. As committee chairs and leaders of the church, we can understand their doubts, anxieties, disbelief, and questions.

Jesus showed them his hands, his feet, and ate fishes with them. Their doubts were dispelled, and their questions are answered. This is how we follow Jesus.

2. Jesus laid foundations on the traditions and visions.

But his message went beyond mere reassurance. With unwavering conviction, Jesus elucidated the fulfillment of ancient prophecies, unveiling the divine purpose behind his suffering, death, and resurrection. Through his teachings, he illuminated the path to redemption—a path predicated on a transformative change of heart and a profound forgiveness of sins.

Psalm 16:10 is often cited as a prophecy of the resurrection, where it says, "For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption." Here "your holy one" is a reference to Jesus, and "corruption" as a description of decay after death, indicating that Jesus would not remain in the grave.

Isaiah 53:10-11 is a part of Isaiah's suffering servant song, and it speaks of the servant's life being an offering for sin, but then it says, "he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days," suggesting a restoration to life after suffering.

Hosea 6:2 says, "After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him." This is a foreshadowing of Jesus's resurrection on the third day after his death.

Although not explicitly about Jesus, the story of Jonah spending three days and three nights in the belly of the fish before being spit out alive is often seen as a typological precursor to Jesus's three days in the tomb before his resurrection (Jonah 1:17). Jesus also used Jonah's story as an analogy of his resurrection.

When we follow Jesus, we also share our dreams with others using our church history, tradition, and vision statement. We want to share God's love in concrete ways. Our church has used music ministry, education, and community services as concrete channels to share God's love with others. In this tradition, we want to put solar panels in our parking lot to share our concern for the environment, to be a good steward of our resources, and to support many music and educational events without worrying about electricity bills.

3. Jesus promised God's help, the Holy Spirit.

In commissioning his disciples as witnesses to these extraordinary events, Jesus bestowed upon them a sacred duty—a mandate to proclaim his message of salvation to all nations. Yet, he did not leave them ill-equipped. Promising the imminent arrival of divine empowerment, he instructed them to remain in the city until they were imbued with heavenly power—a power that would embolden them to fulfill their sacred mission.

As I said before, we do not just say, "Just Do it." We say, "You can do it, and I will help you." I go to every committee meeting even though I do not have a vote. I go there to support the committee work. When I delegate the mission and ministries to the committee, it is not just their work, but it is our common works.

We all do the work together with our prayers, offerings, and volunteer work. When Connie Edgecomb comes and asks help for the Family Promise, it is our work. We donate out money, time, and talents to make it a successful ministry. When Alan Cook comes and asks help for St. Mary's Community Service, we do pray for them and donate our time and talents and treasures. When Ric Campero comes out to ask help for music ministry, we do not leave him alone, but we participate in them through our money, talents, and time. When the flower committee decorated the altar on Easter Sunday, they could not do it without the support of all of us. We still recognize those workers and support them.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit without whom we cannot do our mission and ministries. We will have challenges and obstacles. The success of our mission and ministries depends on our determination and commitment. I will not give up and I will continue my efforts and I pray that you do also. Do not give up. Our mission and ministries are too important to quit. We are here doing life saving business. We are here to build God's Kin-dom on earth. We are called by the risen Jesus to do this work.

We are willing and able to follow Jesus!

We do not give up because we believe in resurrection. In the resurrection, followers find solace—a reassurance that death is not final, but rather a gateway to eternal life. Thus emboldened, they stand unshackled by fear, poised to confront challenges with unwavering conviction. For in the resurrection, they find not merely deliverance, but a call to action—a call to boldly champion God’s Kin-dom.

In essence, the resurrection engenders a paradigm shift—a transformation from fear to courage, from uncertainty to conviction. Through the resurrection, believers find not merely forgiveness, but a mandate—a mandate to pursue mission and ministry, secure in the knowledge that death holds no dominion over those who embrace the promise of eternal life.

As a resurrection people, have faith in God and courage to do your works. Do not quit. Do not give up. God is with us. The Holy Spirit empowers us. We will finish the job that God has started. We will be a part of the great history of our church and God’s Kin-dom. You are the called ones. May God bless all of us when we say Amen, Hallelujah!



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.

OFFICE CHAIRS NEEDED!

The office is in need of 2 new office chairs. One is over 20 years old, and one is...well...just very uncomfortable (it was given to us). Unfortunately, we do not have the money in the office budget for any chairs. If you are able to help financially, please let Susie Wanden know (swanden@cucmstockton.org). Thank you for your consideration.

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>

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!

NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY

Sunday, April 14 is Native American Ministries Sunday. Today we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support United Methodist Native American ministries.

Our gifts to the Native American Ministries Sunday (NAMS) equips and empowers Native American pastors, congregations, and seminary students to worship and serve Jesus while honoring the Native American cultural traditions. Half of our gifts will go to local ministries in our conference the other to support the work of Native American United Methodist ministries nationally.

The gifts we give today will make a significant change in the lives of Native American seminary students; congregations; rural, urban and reservation ministries and communities. Seminarians who attend United Methodist schools of theology are equipped to share God's word more effectively. Your gifts are an investment in the future of the United Methodist Church.

How to Give

Write a check to Central UMC and write NAMS in the memo line or if you choose to give cash place it in the offering envelopes found in the pew. Write your name on the envelope and NAMS. Place your gifts in the offering plate during the offering time.