

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

1st Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 7, 2024



*Indicates please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace
[arr. Mark Hayes]

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Laura Dinges

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Dinges

Leader: In every season of growing faith, there is the love of God.

All: **There is the stunning power of gracious goodness.**

Leader: There is the movement of Spirit in our midst.

All: **These things are real and true. As we gather to worship, thanks be to God.**

*OPENING HYMN

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

UMH #632

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Mary Juarez Dalton

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Laura Dinges

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

Laura Dinges

*PASSING THE PEACE

Laura Dinges

(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.*

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 115)

Laura Dinges

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN**

Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone
(carolynshymns) PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Good Shepherd, we are not alone, for you protect and love your own.
And we, responding, know your voice; We hear you calling and rejoice.*

*Another shepherd might turn back and flee at danger's first attack;
But you laid down your very life — A loving shepherd's sacrifice.*

*A thief may well destroy and steal, but you, Good Shepherd, save and heal.
You lead your sheep to pasture land, To life abundant, by your hand.*

*You gather sheep from far and wide — From folds we know and from outside.
One flock, one Shepherd, there will be — A loving, blest community.*

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SERMON

“Peace be with You!”

Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Laura Dinges

PASTOR’S PRAYER

Rev. Sungho Lee

THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

Laura Dinges

OFFERTORY

Domine Deus
[by Vivaldi]

Dianne England, Soprano
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

Laura Dinges

COMMUNION

UMH #23-24

Laura Dinges

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and a good and joyful thing...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sing: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Sing: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Sing: Amen, amen, amen.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Let Us Break Bread Together

UMH #618

Take Our Bread

UMH #640

Eat This Bread

UMH #628

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**

On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand
[Adam Mason]

Monica Adams

***The flowers on the altar are in celebration of Julia Hastings Birthday from her family!
Happy Birthday Julia!***

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee

Laura Dinges, Worship Leader

Mary Juarez Dalton, 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.

Sermon in a nutshell: "Peace be with You!" (John 20:19-31)

The Bible is written to help us to believe in Jesus as our savior and Lord.

In the Gospel of John, it concludes, "Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name."

Here, the intent behind the biblical narrative becomes vividly apparent. Its primary aim is to foster belief in Jesus as the Christ, God's own Son. Why is this belief so pivotal? Because through it, one finds life, imbued with profound significance and purpose.

Evidence and Proofs are given to help us to have faith in Jesus.

The pages of the Bible resonate with evidence and validation of Jesus' divine authority. Each miracle recounted serves as a testament to his boundless power. Every teaching attributed to him underscores his compassion, mirroring the very essence of divine mercy towards the downtrodden and despondent. Every action chronicled exemplifies the tangible expression of God's love for humanity, manifested through Jesus' earthly ministry.

Here is an example how Thomas came to believe in Jesus.

Thomas, known also as Didymus, one of the Twelve, was absent when Jesus appeared before the disciples. Upon hearing disciples' testimonies, he remained skeptical, demanding tangible proof: "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

Eight days later, within the confines of a locked room, Jesus materialized once more. Addressing Thomas directly, he extended an invitation: "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!" Overwhelmed by this compassionate gesture, Thomas exclaims, "My Lord and my God!" To which Jesus responds, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

The inclusion of the Thomas narrative within the biblical text serves as a poignant reminder of Jesus' compassionate outreach towards doubting hearts. It exemplifies the Gospel's overarching theme of care and concern for every seeker of truth.

What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

What defines the life of believers? It's a life characterized by forgiveness and peace, echoing with the resounding proclamation of harmony. On that pivotal evening, as shadows lengthened and fear gripped the disciples behind closed doors, Jesus breached their sanctuary. His presence, a beacon of reassurance, heralded a profound declaration: "Peace be with you."

Belief is A Call to Self-Sacrifice

Central to Jesus' message is the imperative of peace. Demonstrating this, he bared his scars, a tangible embodiment of the cost of peace. As the disciples beheld their resurrected Lord, their hearts swelled with jubilation. Through his wounds, Jesus illustrated that true peace emerges from the crucible of self-sacrifice. It is this selfless ethos that fosters reconciliation among diverse communities, bridging chasms of dissent and discord.

Reflecting on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi offers poignant parallels. Through nonviolent resistance, Gandhi spearheaded India's quest for independence, eschewing the tools of aggression for the path of fasting and peaceful protest. His unwavering commitment to nonviolence captivated the world's attention, compelling the British government to reckon with his cause. Gandhi confessed that he learned this non-violence from Jesus.

Embracing the Path of Peaceful Advocacy

Conversely, history attests to the futility of violence in pursuit of justice. From the turbulent annals of communist revolutions to the haunting specter of terrorist atrocities, the legacy of violence is one marred by perpetual conflict and loss of innocent lives. Those who wield violence as a means of advocacy sow seeds of discord, perpetuating cycles of suffering and strife.

In the annals of peaceful advocacy, luminaries like Martin Luther King Jr. stand as exemplars of Jesus' teachings. Drawing inspiration from Gandhi's principles of nonviolent resistance, King championed the cause of civil rights through peaceful means, igniting a nationwide movement for racial equality. His adherence to the path of nonviolence, rooted in the teachings of Jesus, exemplifies the transformative potential of peaceable dissent.

In the crucible of human history, the life of Jesus offers a timeless blueprint for peace—a call to embrace the ethos of self-sacrifice and nonviolent advocacy. Through his example, we find the enduring promise of reconciliation and harmony, beckoning humanity towards a future imbued with the resplendent glow of peace.

A Call to Transformative Action: Insights from Jesus

In the gospel narrative, Jesus imparts a profound message to his disciples, echoing through the corridors of time: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." This charge encapsulates the essence of Jesus' mission—his sacrificial journey, culminating in the crucible of the Cross. Just as Jesus embraced the path of self-sacrifice, his followers are summoned to tread a similar path, confronting challenges with resilience and fortitude.

In the bustling sphere of contemporary discourse, fostering a culture of non-violence resonates as an imperative ethos, whether within the sanctified walls of our church meetings, the intimate exchanges of familial dialogue, or the broader arena of domestic and international deliberations on contentious matters.

May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all! Amen.



WOMEN OF CENTRAL

Calling all women (And any men interested)! There will be a meeting of Women United in Faith (UMW) coming soon. We will meet in the Fireside Room the second Thursday of April, April 11, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be pizza, salad, and dessert.

We no longer have a set program so the goal is to have lunch and visit with others from our congregation. We collect \$5 to help defray the cost of the lunch. No reservation is needed. Please come and join others to enjoy conversation and a light lunch.

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/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!