



Thank you so much for joining us in worship for Palm Sunday!  
Today is a very special day in the life of the church wherein we welcome Jesus to Jerusalem at the beginning of what is known as Holy Week.

During Lent our worship services have featured the music of Robert Ray's Gospel Mass. Today, you will hear the entire work. The Gospel Mass prepares us for Holy Week in the way in which Ray wrote the piece to cover a broad spectrum of emotions. There are high moments of praise, and quiet moments of prayer. And while the piece is not specifically about Holy Week, there are crescendos that evoke the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple, and pauses that point to the Garden of Gethsemane. Each piece invites the listener into a deep appreciation of joy, pathos, and discipleship. As we prepare today for Holy Week, it is our hope that the Gospel Mass will bring you to a place of readiness for the coming week. Below, you will find excerpts from an article in the Houston Chronicle about this amazing piece of music.

"Thirty years ago, Robert Ray sat down to write Gospel Mass, an experimental work, for a one-time performance. To his surprise, the piece caught on and became a seminal work of African-American music, performed by choirs and churches all over the world.

There's no doubt in Ray's mind that God played a role in the writing of his now famous Mass, which sets the words from the Catholic Mass to the rhythm and harmony of African-American music. 'God controls everything I do,' said Ray, a composer, conductor and music educator. 'It was written in about a two-week period. The hard part for me was not being a formally trained composer. The creativity was a result of divine inspiration. He was working with me.'

But it was also, he agrees, the right time and place. The Black Power movement was pushing cultural pride and identity, Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of inclusion still felt fresh, and white audiences were eager to embrace gospel music. Similarly, the Gospel Mass, Ray explains, is a direct result of the Second Vatican Council in the mid-'60s and its decision to hold Masses in the language of the host country rather than in traditional Latin. That opened up the mass to other changes. The music for the Mass, like other pieces Ray later composed, was based on his own musical experience, growing up in the African Methodist Episcopal Church."

*(Barbara Karkabi, Houston Chronicle, Friday January 16, 2009)*

April 9, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE



**SERMON SERIES**  
**"40 DAYS OF GOOD NEWS"**

**CLASSIC SERVICE** 8:30am & 11:00am  
**COMMUNITY OF HOPE** 1:00pm

## HOLY WEEK

- **April 13: Holy Thursday service at 7:00pm;** Holy Communion
- **April 14: Good Friday service at 7:00pm;** The story of Jesus' death on the cross
- **April 15: Great Gettin' Up Morning at 7:00pm;** Great music in anticipation of the resurrection
- **April 16: Easter Sunday** Traditional worship at **8:30am and 11:00am**
- **April 16: Kid and Family Friendly Easter Service at 9:45am:** Life Center: The Case of the Missing Messiah!



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

When: **June 17th, 9:00am-3:00pm**

Theme: Hero Central

*Please contact Pastor Kelly for more information.*

### THRIFT SHOP

**CLOSED Good Friday, 4/14 & Sunday, 4/16.**

### EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flowers can be purchased for \$8.00 in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Forms are available at the church office or at one of the Sanctuary entrances.

**Orders for flowers will be taken until Wednesday, April 12, 2017**



### SACRAMENTO CHURCH CAMP

Registration is open for all ages (**deadline: April 16th!**)

Transportation for King's Kids Camp (grades 2-4 | June 9-11) and Ritmo Camp (grades 7-12 | June 14-23) will be provided.

Visit [sacramentocamp.org](http://sacramentocamp.org) for camp information and visit with Pastor Kelly to register.

### SARANAM ANNUAL DREAMING OF HOME BREAKFAST

Did you know that Central has an amazing and unique program called Saranam designed to end homelessness and poverty in families? Please join us off-site at our Annual Dreaming of Home Breakfast to learn more about Saranam and hear from a single dad about his journey from the projects in LA to home at Saranam. He and his daughter, Denise are thriving and preparing for a life of success and stability. Breakfast is free, but RSVP is necessary.

**Thursday, April 13, 7:30 am.**

*Please RSVP to Tracy Sharp at 299-6154 x 102.*



### CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST MEN

All of the men who attend Central UMC are invited to attend the United Methodist Men's Forum that will be held at Central UMC on **Saturday, April 29th**. Registration forms are available at the front desk at Central or from Ed Vigil. In addition, the Central United Men will pay for the registration fee for the first ten men who contact *Ed Vigil* at (505) 221-0041. For additional information about the Forum, contact either Ed or Marion Jordan.

#### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Kelly Brooks**, Executive Pastor  
**Rev. Janet Norden**, Associate Pastor  
**Scott Zila**, Building Superintendent  
**Jerri Foster**, Director of Music Ministries

**Michele Humes**, Office Administrator

**Kathy Gough**, Office Assistant  
**Jesus Valdez**, Media Coordinator  
**Rick Wild**, Organist  
**Alesha Bird**, ASL Interpreter



WE ARE A  
**STEPHEN  
 MINISTRY  
 CHURCH**

**Get connected!** Sign up for Central Connections, our weekly electronic newsletter, at [www.centraltolife.org](http://www.centraltolife.org) or send an email to Jesus Valdez at [jesusvaldez@centraltolife.org](mailto:jesusvaldez@centraltolife.org).  
 201 University Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505) 243-7834 [www.centraltolife.org](http://www.centraltolife.org)  
**Services broadcast on KAZQ TV-32—Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm**