



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

May 1, 2022

The 23rd Psalm Window



OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

Central United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, age, ability, belief, or background, whether you are single or partnered, you are God's beloved and you are welcome here.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We envision Central United Methodist Church as a vital, diverse, River of Life nurtured by the light of Christ, rooted deeply in and living the scriptures, a holy presence in the center of the City of Detroit, transforming individuals, institutions, and the world, advocating peace and justice in all we do.

* Indicates when to stand, if able in body or in spirit. **Please silence cell phones.

Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; SOZ = Songs of Zion

PRELUDE

INTROIT

If it had not been for the Lord

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, walk in green pastures.

ALL: We follow the Shepherd.

ONE: Come, lie down in green pastures.

ALL: We trust the Shepherd.

ONE: Come, dine at the table of abundance.

ALL: We are fed by the Shepherd.

ONE: Come, dwell in God's house.

ALL: We live in the Shepherd's care.

*OPENING HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

UMH #381

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are; Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
2. We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray; Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.
3. Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be; thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee; Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.
4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still; Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good Shepherd, we take your care for granted. In the midst of your many blessings, we complain of not having enough. In the presence of danger, we fail to trust your abiding love. When you set a table before us, we turn aside from you. Call us back into your care and help us trust your caring presence, that our actions may proclaim your truth. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. God forgives our failures and calls us back into the flock. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO TAKE A “FIELD TRIP,” TO SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST, AND TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Holy One. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God, you guide us as a loving shepherd. In your presence, our spirits are renewed. In your wisdom, we discover peace. In fellowship together, we find ways to share your good news with others. As we enjoy your blessings, help us to give from our abundance with glad and generous hearts. We dedicate these tithes and offerings in the name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his flock. **Amen.**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SHARING OF BLESSINGS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSON*1 Samuel 16: 14-20, 22-23*

New King James Version

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him."

Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

SCRIPTURE LESSON*Psalms 23*

New King James Version

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.

ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The 23rd Psalm Window

Jeffrey Ellison

RESPONSE

Shepherd me, O God

(Congregation sings verses 1-3; for verses 4-5, sing the refrain only)

(Refrain) Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *(Refrain)*
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *(Refrain)*
3. Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *(Refrain)*

4. *(verse sung solo; rejoin on the refrain)*
You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. *(Refrain)*
5. *(verse sung solo; rejoin on the refrain)*
Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.
(Refrain)

*WORDS: Marty Haugen. MUSIC: Marty Haugen. © 1986.
GLA Publications, Inc. CCLI2815228*

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

James Cone, a Black Liberation theologian, wrote, “Theological concepts have meaning only as they are translated into theological praxis, that is, the Church living in the world on the basis of what it proclaims.”

Or in other words, our God Words are not just spiritual truths, but are also experienced in our physical life. Our Sacraments are like that. Our theological statements of living, dying, and being raised with Christ are demonstrated in Baptism and in Communion. The Sacraments allow us to experience physically these theological truths.

When we come to this table,
we proclaim the truth that God has led us on paths of righteousness;
we acknowledge that it is God who prepares the table;
we experience the good abundance of green pastures and still waters;
we announce God’s goodness and mercy;
we declare that death is a part of life, but in Christ we have no fear.
Let us offer our prayer of thanksgiving to our Good Shepherd.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of Creation, you are made known in your great works. All of our senses delight in the beauty around us. From dust you formed us and to dust we will return.

Just as you breathed the breath of life into us, so that breath – our soul – will be restored to you.

Jesus, you took on humanity to make theology real. In your life, you helped us to understand what it means to believe. You showed us what it looks like to walk in paths of righteousness. In your feeding and healing, you sat your people in green pastures, feeding them the Bread of Life and leading them to Living Water.

You restored their souls. You restore our soul.

Holy Spirit, you are made known in the goodness and mercy that both leads us and earnestly seeks us. In your goodness, you comfort us with your presence and correct us when we wander.

In your mercy, you show us how to return evil with love.

Holy Spirit, you are also the one whose presence at this table makes it more than just a few pieces of bread and a cup of grape juice. We pray that once again you would make this the Bread of Life and the Cup of the New Covenant – bringing us together in the house of the LORD – in this life and the one to come.

Creator, Christ, Holy Spirit, we offer you our thanksgiving for all the ways you lead us. Recognizing your unity in one another we demonstrate our unity in you, as we join our voices saying the prayer Jesus taught us: Our Father...

Invitation

Jesus was both the receiver and giver of hospitality. He ate and drank with all people, offering himself to them. In the same way, at one of these meals, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body, broken for you.”

Likewise, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to the disciples, saying: “This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you.”

Jesus has prepared this table so that all who seek him would know the covenantal love of God’s goodness and mercy.

Hymn during Communion

Eat This Bread

UMH # 628

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst. *(Repeat)*

Prayer After Communion

Good and merciful God, we pray that our theology would be more than words as it is made real in our lives, just as the valley of the shadow of death is real in our lives. May this meal nourish our bodies and souls so that we might not want, and that we might live in service to the world around us, to your glory. **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Lead me, Guide Me

1. I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power, to help me over my weakest hour; let me through the darkness Thy face to see, Lead me, O God, lead me.
 2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness; be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting all my trust in Thee, Lead me, O God, lead me.
(Refrain)
 3. I am lost, if you take your hand from me; I am blind, without Thy Light to see; Lord, just always let me Thy servant be, Lead me, O God, lead me. *(Refrain)*
- (Refrain)* Lead me, guide me along the way; for if You lead me, I cannot stray; Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O God, lead me.

WORDS AND MUSIC: © 1953, Doris M. Akers. Chappell & Co.

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Jeffrey Ellison

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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Bobbi Thompson, Interim Music Director

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Central United Methodist Church acknowledges that the building in which we carry out our collective life together occupies and is built upon land that is part of what was first known as Waawiyaataanong (“At the curved shores.”), the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy, but which is now referred to as Detroit. In 1807 the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations granted use of these sovereign lands to the US government through the Treaty of Detroit. Central United Methodist Church affirms the continued Indigenous sovereignty over these lands and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. We commit ourselves to working together with our native brothers and sisters to advance equity in all dimensions of life and to promote a better future for the earth and all its peoples.
(Adopted by the Ministry Team -April 22, 2021)

THE 23rd PSALM WINDOW

The long 2-lancet window illustrates in symbolic fashion the beautiful Twenty-third Psalm, indicated in the top tracery opening by a scroll and flock of sheep.

At the top of the left lancet, the shepherd boy David sits strumming his harp while he watches over his sheep and composes the psalm. The lovely words unfold throughout the remainder of the lancets, not all but many of them illustrated. They show the pilgrim passing along life’s path protected by the Lord his God just as a good shepherd protects his flock.

From “The Stained Glass Windows of Central Methodist Church: A Description,” written by Muriel C. Willet, Treasurer of the Willet Stained Glass Company, and published upon the dedication of our windows in 1955.

Portions of this service were written by The Lectionary Sermons Worship Resources archive; by Rev. Dr. Steven F. Plymale via UMC’s Discipleship Resources; and taken from “The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012,” edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © 2011 by Abingdon Press.