



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

July 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

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; WS=Worship & Song

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PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

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)

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.

ALL: We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.

ONE: We are here because we want to be God's people.

ALL: We want to learn more about what it means to be the people of God.

ONE: We come, seeking to be moved, changed, and made whole by the Spirit of the Living God.

ALL: Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit and prepare to leave this place as true disciples of Christ. Amen
(written by Ruth C. Duck)

*OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

adapted from UMH #64

1. Holy, holy, holy, God the almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your
majesty. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful
and mighty! God in three persons,
blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you
truly, Casting down their golden
crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim bow before
you only, From the beginning, God
eternally.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but
dimly, Though the eyes of humankind
your glory may not see, you alone are
holy, you alone are worthy, Perfect in
power, in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty, All
your works shall praise your name in
earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy,
holy! Merciful and mighty! God in
three persons, blessed Trinity!

MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1861, CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that sometimes we close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change.

God, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation in our own homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems of our hearts. Open up our lives. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words of assurance: Forgiveness is the threshold. First we look out, then we are sent out...Thanks be to God. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The trees share their nutrients through underground networks. The eagle does not catch more fish than she needs. The mushrooms decompose leaves into soil, rich with life. And so, we too, to our part – sharing what we have, taking no more than we need, transforming systems of death into systems of life. Let us gather our offerings today, that it may be so.

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**

Living Christ, we see how the world could be – ecosystems cherished and preserved; workers in our communities cared for reverently. And yet our minds and spirits anguish over the ways which systems of domination plow over the living. We aim to live differently together. Bless our offerings to our radical, gentle and precious care for each other. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

***CENTERING HYMN**

The Servant Song

TFWS #2222

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:51-62

from the Inclusive Bible

As the time approached when he was to be taken from this world, Jesus firmly resolved to proceed toward Jerusalem and sent messengers on ahead. They entered a Samaritan town to make preparations for him but the Samaritans wouldn't welcome Jesus because his destination was Jerusalem.

When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Rabbi, do you want us to call down fire from heaven and destroy them?" But Jesus turned and reprimanded them. Then they set off for another town.

As they were making their way along, they met a fellow traveler who said to Jesus, "I'll follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have lairs, the birds of the sky have nests, but the chosen One has nowhere to rest."

To another traveler Jesus said, "Follow me."

The traveler replied, "Let me bury my father first."

Jesus said in return, "Let the dead bury their dead; you go and proclaim the reign of God everywhere."

Yet another traveler approached Jesus in this way: "I'll be your follower, Rabbi, but first let me say goodbye to my people at home."

Jesus answered, "Whoever puts a hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

But, First....

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: The fortitude of the Holy be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: We bring our Sacred Bodies to the Beloved.

ALL: It is healing to bring our Whole Selves to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God who cares about our fleshly flourishing.

ALL: To the Spirit who joins us in our suffering and redemption.

ONE: God, we come to your table of Mystery, holding the heartbreaking and hopeful in the same handful. We gather to remember your teaching, your suffering, and your example of new life. As we remember your body, broken, we honor the suffering of our own beloved bodies too.

From the cruelty and shrapnel of war, inadequate and inaccessible healthcare, inevitable accidents and illness of life.

ALL: Our bodies and hearts break, O God.

ONE: From work that bows our backs and wears our resilience, Violence directed towards gender oppressed people, state-sanctioned violence aimed at Black and Brown beloveds:

ALL: Our bodies and hearts break, O God.

ONE: Guns in the hands of the vengeful, laws in the hands of the out of touch, prison systems that enslave and rip families apart:

ALL: Our bodies and our hearts, break, O God.

ONE: Like us, Jesus was broken: Broken by the ways of empire. Beaten up by unjust systems. He cried out to God, and asked why. He was betrayed by a friend. His mother wept. And, like us, Jesus was blessed: Anointed with oil by his beloved, Mary. Accompanied through his wanderings by a group of friends. He drank wine at dinner parties, sat with children and took time to be alone.

We remember one night of life and death commingling in particular: Before Jesus was arrested, he gathered with his friends for a meal, as often did. He took bread, gave thanks to God, and like his body would break, he broke the bread. He shared it with his disciples saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his disciples and said: Drink from this, all of you. this is the cup of the new covenant. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Beloved, the table of Broken Hearts and New Life is set. Bring your blessed bodies forward, that we might share in God's meal together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living Christ, thank you for this meal that nourishes our bodies and spirits. By feasting on this bread of life, your presence reminds us of our belovedness, even when broken. For you, Holy Mystery, companion us through all things. Thanks be to God for your sustaining love. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

We Come to This Table

(tune UMH #131)

1. We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving. We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray. We hear Jesus' welcome – inviting forgiving; we know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.
2. We dine at your table as sisters and brothers, diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one. The bread and the cup that we share here with others, are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.
3. We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?" We pray for the cycles of violence to cease. Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger to labor in his name for a world filled with peace.
4. We rise from this table with new dedication to feed the world's children, to free the oppressed, to clear out the minefields, to care for creation; we pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.

Tune: *Nederlandtsh Gedenckclanck*, 1626 ("We Gather Together") Text: Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

When symbols of hollow freedom wave in our communities, let us resolve to set one another deeply free.

When songs hailing what we can do alone fill the air, let us amaze ourselves at what we can do together.

When politicians talk about how God loves some places more than others, let us celebrate Love that flows Beyond all Borders.

Go with God who goes with us. Amen.

Central United Methodist Church
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