

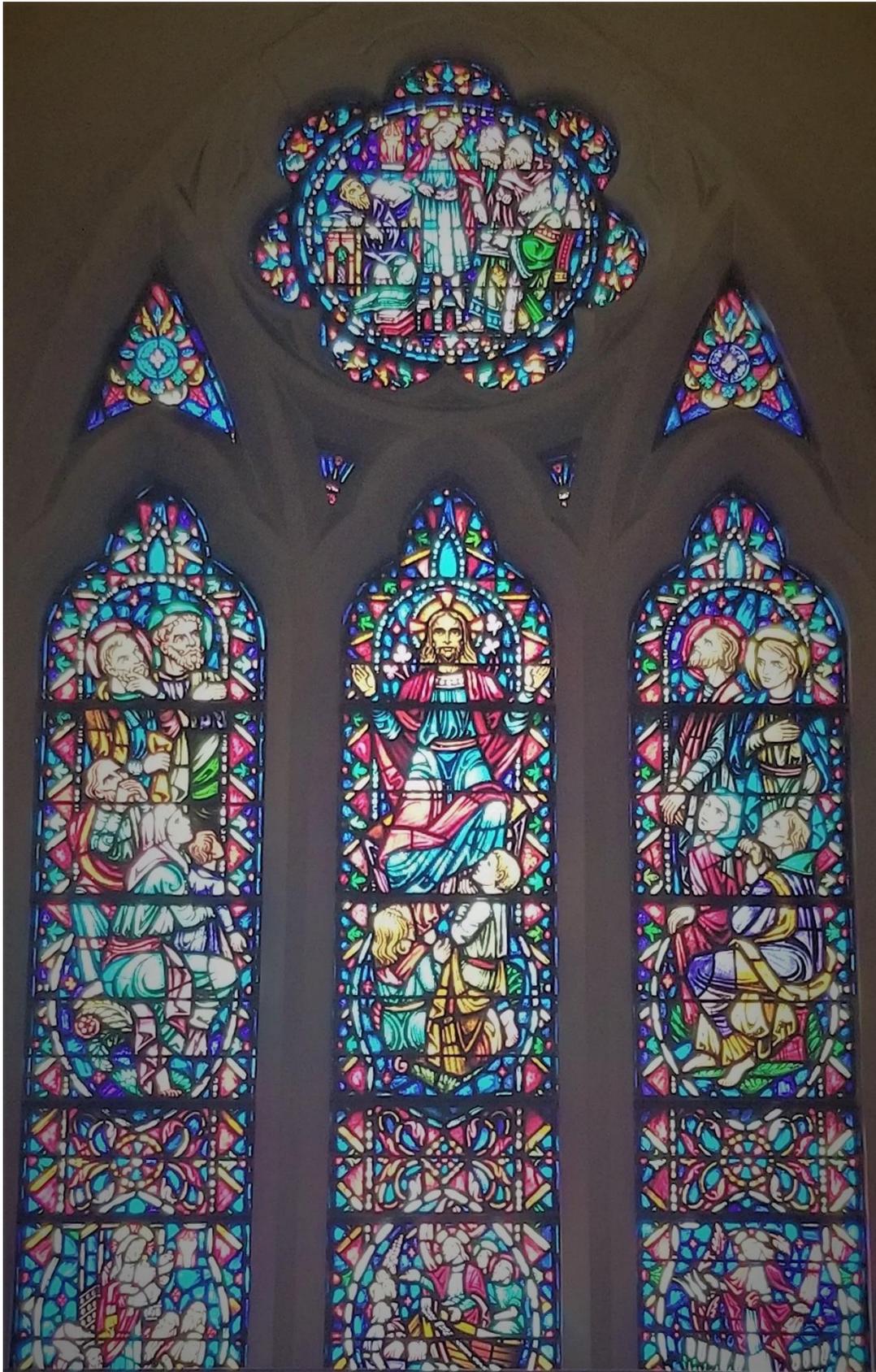


Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

April 24, 2022



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

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)

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson, Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Which commandment in the law is greatest?

ALL: Love your God.

ONE: And the second?

ALL: Love your neighbor as yourself.

ONE: Love...

ALL: with all your heart.

ONE: Love...

ALL: with all your soul.

ONE: Love...

ALL: with all your mind.

ONE: Love...

ALL: with all your strength.

ONE: On these commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

ALL: Blessed are those whose delight is in the law of our God.

***OPENING HYMN**

Blest are they

TFWS #2155

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.
(Refrain)

(Refrain) Rejoice and be glad. Blessed are you; holy are you. Rejoice and be glad. Yours is the Kin-dom of God.

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *(Refrain)*

3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart; They shall see God. *(Refrain)*

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. *(Refrain)*

5. Blest are you who suffer hate all because of me. Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kin-dom. Shine for all to see. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: David Haas; MUSIC: David Haas. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXPLANATION OF OUR SERVICE TODAY

Marcus W. Dickson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have heard Jesus' teachings many times, but we confess that sometimes we think they are impractical. We let anger take hold of us. We fail to keep our commitments to you and to others. We lack courage to follow Jesus' way of love. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to find joy in following your way. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus teaches us in Matthew 7:11, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will our Creator in heaven give good things to those who ask!" In Jesus Christ, God gives us the gift of forgiveness.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

God, we give these gifts in gratitude for your blessing.

We give these gifts with hope, as we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

May our offerings of money, time, and talent be used

To comfort those who mourn, to extend mercy, to make peace,

To help us all more clearly see and live your presence in our lives and in our world. **Amen.**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SHARING OF BLESSINGS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

ONE: As Jesus taught us, so we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, who are in the heavens, let your name be held holy; let your kin-dom come; let your will come to pass, as in heaven so also upon earth; Give to us today bread for the day ahead; And excuse us our debts, just as we have excused our debtors; And do not let us fall into temptation, but rescue us from the one who is wicked. For yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory unto the ages. Amen.

(Translation by David Bentley Hart)

* HYMN

If we claim to love our neighbor

Tune of UMH #581

1. If we claim to love our neighbor
while the hungry queue for food,
are we prey to self-deception?
Is perception quite so crude?
If we sit beside our neighbors,
begging for the things they need,
we might share their own injustice
in a world that thrives on greed.
2. If we punish those with nothing,
blaming them for where they stand,
is this love of friend or neighbor,
do we still not understand?
Love of neighbor is not easy,
cuts us till we feel the pain,
sharing hurt that they are feeling
till they find new life again.

3. Love of neighbor sets us squarely
in the place where they now sit,
till the richness God has given
builds a pearl around the grit;
till each person shares the comfort
of the love of which we preach,
till we live as fact the Gospel:
none can be beyond love's reach.

WORDS: Andrew Pratt; © 2015 Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England; MUSIC: Attr. To B.F. White, 1844; harm. By Ronald A. Nelson, 1978. CCLI2815228

GOSPEL LESSONMatthew 5-7 (Selected Verses)*

D. B. Hart Translation

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt should become insipid, by what shall it be made salty? You are the light of the world. So let your light shine out before humanity, so that they may see your good works and may glorify God in the heavens.

You have heard that it was said, ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ Whereas I tell you not to oppose the wicked one by force; Rather, whosoever strikes you upon the right cheek, turn to them the other as well. You have heard that it has been said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and shall hate your enemy,’ whereas I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

When you pray do not be like those who are play-acting; For they love to pray while standing in the synagogues and on the corners of streets, so that they may be visible to all; I tell you truly, they have their recompense.

See the birds of the sky – that they neither sow nor reap nor gather into granaries; and your heavenly God feeds them; are you not more excellent than they? But who among you can, by worrying, lengthen the span of their life by a single cubit? And why do you worry over clothing? Look closely at the lilies of the field – how they grow; They neither labor nor spin; yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was garbed like one of them.

Everyone, therefore, who hears these sayings of mine and enacts them shall be likened to a prudent one who built their house upon rock. And the rain descended and the rivers flooded in and the winds blew and fell upon that house, and it did not fall; For it had been founded upon rock.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE*The Teaching Window*

Marcus W. Dickson

CLOSING HYMNSois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)*

UMH #583

1. You are the seed that that will grow a new sprout; You're a star that will shine in the night; You are the yeast and the small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark. You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain; you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witnesses where e'er you go.
(Refrain)
 2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark, sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love; you are the shepherds to lead the whole world through valleys and pastures of peace. You are the friends that I chose for myself, the word that I want to proclaim. You are the new Kingdom built on a rock where justice and truth always reign. *(Refrain)*
 3. You are the life that will nurture the plant; You're the waves in a turbulent sea; Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a city to hide nor a mountain can cover its might; May your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God. *(Refrain)*
- (Refrain)* Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all, messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love. Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose; “Lo, I’ll be with you forever, till the end of the world.”

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Marcus W. Dickson

Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422
www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus
Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

THE TEACHING WINDOW

The 3-lancet traceried window on the right above the gallery shows Christ seated in the center lancet preaching His great Sermon on the Mount. He is surrounded by a multitude of persons, some His disciples, others just ordinary men, women, and children who had flocked to hear Him, who are portrayed in the left and right lancets.

The predella subjects below illustrate some of the great truths He uttered at other times when he taught His disciples. At the right is Christ preaching in the fields, “Consider the lilies of the field how they grow...” (Matthew 6:28). In the center He is preaching from the boat, the multitude which followed Him shown seated on the shore listening raptly. In the left medallion Christ is shown teaching in the Synagogue on the Sabbath.

The rose tracery above the window shows the boy Christ preaching in the Temple with the learned doctors listening astounded and amazed at His wisdom, while he says, “Why did you seek me? Did you not know that it is necessary for me to be in the home of my Abba?” (Luke 2:49).

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 Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com.

Portions of this service were written by Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, CarolynsHymns.com.