



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

December 10, 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection.*

### 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.

W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal;  
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

**PRELUDE**

Bobbi Thompson

### ACTS OF PRAISE

\***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from A Sanctified Art)

ONE: Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together. We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. So as we begin our worship, I invite you to turn and face someone you are close to so that you can see one another.

(Pause as people get in position.)

Now repeat these phrases after me: Welcome to worship.

**ALL: Welcome to worship.**

ONE: I am glad you're here.

**ALL: I am glad you're here.**

ONE: Surely God is in this space.

**ALL: Surely God is in this space.**

ONE: I see God in your face.

**ALL: I see God in your face.**

ONE: Let us worship together.

**ALL: Let us worship together.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Welcome*

W&S #2152

**1. Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in, to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace singing welcome, (Refrain)**

**2. Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast, where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least, and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray, singing welcome, (Refrain)**

*Refrain: welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace. All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.*

**3. Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one, a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem, where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice, crying welcome! (Refrain)**

WORDS: Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller; MUSIC: Mark A. Miller; © 2007 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Company; CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF SHARING

### GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sylvia Orduno

ONE: How does a weary world practice peace?

**ALL: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.**

ONE: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**ALL: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.**

ONE: There are a million ways to practice peace.

So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

**ALL: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.**

ONE: How does a weary world hope?

**ALL: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

ONE: By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

**ALL: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.**

ONE: There are a million ways to practice hope.

So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

**ALL: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### ANTHEM

*Jazz Gloria* by Natalie Sleeth

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*The Angel Gabriel*, arr. Austin Lovelace

For electronic giving, please use this QR Code.



**\*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

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### \*CENTERING HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, v 1 & 3

UMH# 211

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)**

**3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to they tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)**

**(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

WORDS: 9<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2 Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916, st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986.; MUSIC: 15<sup>th</sup>. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854; sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict; CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

**\*SCRIPTURE (Please Stand)** *Luke 1:24-45*

Sometime later, Elizabeth conceived. She went into seclusion for five months, saying, “our God has done this for me. In these days, God has shown favor to us and taken away the disgrace of our having no children.”

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!”

Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You’ll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name of Jesus—‘Deliverance,’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?”

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you—hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God. Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.”

With that, the angel left her.

Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth.

As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to be? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished.!”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** *How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection* Rev. Paul Perez

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Draw the Circle Wide*

W&S #3154

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**No one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**No one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side,  
draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side,  
draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**No one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side.**

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side,  
draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side,  
draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

# BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

## BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

### CHORAL BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



Please help us know you were here in worship today by scanning the QR code above with your phone. There is also a place for notes and prayer requests for the pastor.

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Central United Methodist Church  
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422

[www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://www.centralumchurchdetroit.org)

[cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org](mailto:cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org)

Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Margaret Reese, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

*This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425.*

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### 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)