



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

March 6, 2022

First Sunday in Lent/Women's History Month

## 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

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: Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

**ALL: Jesus went into the city to heal.**

ONE: Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

**ALL: Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.**

ONE: Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

**ALL: But Jesus also went to the wilderness.**

ONE: There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

**ALL: We are in God's house. Let us worship Holy God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *Christ, who Throughout These Forty Days* adapted from UMH #269

1. Christ, who throughout these forty days  
for us didst fast and pray, Teach us with  
thee to mourn our sins and close by thee  
to say.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and  
didst the victory win, O give us strength  
in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
3. And through these days of penitence, and  
through this Passiontide. Yes, evermore,  
in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.
4. Abide with us, till when this life of  
suffering shall be past. And Easter of  
unending joy we may attain at last.

CCL12815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WOMEN OF HISTORY**

### **CALL TO CONFESSIOIN**

ONE: Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate existence with a million chances to try again. So let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us pray the prayer of confession together.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ONE: Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power –

**ALL: Teach us a new way.**

ONE: Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth –

**ALL: Teach us a new way.**

ONE: Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control –

**ALL: Teach us a new way.**

ONE: Teach us to live as you live.

**ALL: Teach us to love as you love.**

ONE: Forgive us when we don't.

**ALL: Gratefully we pray, amen.**

### **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

ONE: Siblings in Christ, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy. Here and believe this good news –

**ALL: God's love is overflowing. We are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO 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**

### **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **\*CENTERING HYMN**      *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around*

1. Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around,  
turn me around, turn me around, Ain't  
gonna let nobody turn me around, I'm  
gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-  
talkin', Marching down to freedom land.
2. Ain't gonna let racism turn me around,  
turn me around, turn me around, Ain't  
gonna let racism turn me around, I'm  
gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-  
talkin', Marching down to freedom land.
3. Ain't gonna let injustice turn me around,  
turn me around, turn me around, Ain't  
gonna let injustice turn me around, I'm  
gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-  
talkin', Marching down to freedom land.

CCLI2815228

## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of the wilderness places in our lives,  
it can be hard to hear you in the desert.

It can be hard to hear you in the city.

In the midst of our calendar reminders,  
rush-hour traffic, and notification alerts,  
it can be hard to hear you, so we ask:

make everything quiet.

Pause the chaos.

Still the rushing.

Ease our racing thoughts.

Give us ears to hear your Word for us today

which promises that even in the desert

you are full to the brim. We are listening. We ache for your good news.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

#### **\*GOSPEL LESSON**      *Luke 4:1-13* from the Inclusive Bible

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, "We don't live on bread alone."

Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The Devil said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours."

In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it:

‘You will worship the Most High God;  
God alone will you adore.’”

Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, “If you are God’s Own, throw yourself down from here,” for scripture has it,

‘God will tell the angels to take care of you;  
with their hands they’ll support you,  
that you may never stumble on a stone.’”

Jesus said to the Devil in reply, “It also says, ‘Do not put God to the test.’”

When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

Rev. Jon Reynolds

## CLOSING HYMN

*We Walk by Faith*

TFWS #2196

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e’er spoke, but we believe him near.
2. We may not touch his hands and said, nor follow where he trod; yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, “My Lord and God!”
3. Help then, O Christ, our unbelief, and may our faith abound; to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.
4. That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light we may behold you are you are in full and endless sight.
5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e’er spoke, but we believe him near.

WORDS: Henry Alford, alt. MUSIC: Attr. To Hugh Wilson, CCLI2815228

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Jon Reynolds

As you leave this place,  
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.  
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.  
May you overflow with love for those around you.  
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.  
And in all of your living and breathing and being,  
may you find yourself full to the brim with God’s Holy Spirit,  
and may it change your life.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved and Love itself –  
go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.