



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

August 28, 2022

12<sup>th</sup> 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

**PRELUDE**

Bobbi Thompson

**INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Come, let us ground ourselves in the sacred wonder of this ordinary day.

**ALL: For the Holy infuses all of our lives.**

ONE: Let us gather together expectantly.

**ALL: For the Living God sets the table for all Her Beloveds.**

ONE: Let us rejoice,

**ALL: For Love is not earned but freely given.**

ONE: Our birthright is Belonging.

**ALL: Let us welcome one another in.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Gather Us In*

TFWS #2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreaming, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame; call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kin-dom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WORDS: Marty Haugen; MUSIC: Marty Haugen; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. CCL12815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **UNISON PRAYER**

Creating One, you welcome us to the path of healing and invite us to the ways of radical love. We desire to mirror your compassion while at the same time honoring our own wellbeing. Grant us wisdom to hold boundaries that support our thriving, that we may be hemmed in from relationship dynamics that cause us harm. May we feel the balance of what is ours to do and what is ours to release into your Mysterious Peace. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

American Civil Rights champion, Fannie Lou Hammer, famously said, “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.” We collect our shared resources so that, together, all beings may experience their birthright of freedom. Freedom to live in safety, with bodily agency and with dignity. Freedom to rest, to make amends, and to experience beauty. Let us bring forth our gifts, 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**

**Wisdom of Christ, bless our gifts of money, time and skills to the flourishing of your people. For we desire a world where nothing is hoarded and abundance abounds, that all may live in the rich landscape of freedom and belonging. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

### **\*CENTERING HYMN**

*Make Me a Servant* (twice)

TFWS #2176

**Make me a servant, humble and meek, God, let me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.**

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## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

### **\*SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 14:1, 7-14*

(Inclusive Bible)

One Sabbath, when Jesus came to eat a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees, the guests watched him closely.

Jesus went on to address a parable to the guests, noticing how they were trying to get a place of honor at the table.

“When you’re invited to a wedding party, don’t sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished has been invited. Otherwise the hosts might come and say to you, ‘Make room for this person,’ and you would have to proceed shamefacedly to the lowest place. What you should do is go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your hosts approach you they’ll say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’ This will win you the esteem of the other guests. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Then Jesus said to the host, “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you to return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. You should be pleased that they can’t repay you, for you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

*Blessed.....Changed*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Together We Serve*

TFWS #2175

1. **Together we serve, united by love, inviting God’s world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.**
2. **We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.**
3. **We welcome the scarred, the wealthy the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**
4. **Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.**

# BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

The Living Christ has shown us this example.

In mutuality, we find freedom.

In sharing, we find abundance.

In welcoming, we find our own belonging.

Go with God who goes with us. Amen.

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**Central United Methodist Church**  
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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, Interim Music Director

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*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 Waawiyataanong (“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)