



Central United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

July 9, 2023
5th 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;
W&S = Worship & Song

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(from *enfleshed*)

ONE: Welcome— You truth-tellers, you healers, you dreamers, you way-makers.

**ALL: God celebrates the courageous and creative! God loves the work of soulful
community-making!**

ONE: Welcome— You brokenhearted, you righteously angry, you wonderful and weary human kin.

**ALL: God privileges the stories of the vulnerable! God demands accountability from those
who cause harm!**

***OPENING HYMN**

All Who Hunger

TFWS #2126

- 1. All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
- 2. All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

- 3. All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

WORDS: Sylvia G. Dunstan; MUSIC: William Moore; Words © 1991
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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Paul Perez

LITANY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF A NEW APPOINTMENT

(adapted from Discipleship Ministries)

INEZ TORBERT (*to congregation*): Dear friends, today we welcome Paul Perez, who has been appointed to serve as our Lead Minister. We believe that he is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our bishop, David Alan Bard.

INEZ TORBERT (*to Rev. Paul*): Paul, as a Deacon appointed to this role, you are to represent the ministry of connecting the Church and the World, to proclaim God's word, to equip all Christians to be ministers of compassion and justice in mutual relationship with the community, to partner with Elders and church members to ensure the celebration of the sacraments and stewardship of the Church, and to sustain the faith, hope, and love of the people of God.

REV. PAUL PEREZ: Today I affirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

SYLVIA OATLEY (*to congregation*): Siblings in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you who celebrate this new beginning support and uphold Paul in these ministries?

CONGREGATION: We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

SYLVIA OATLEY: Let us pray.

CONGREGATION: God of Compassion and Justice, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together, with Paul as our Lead Minister.

Give him and us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for one another and challenge one another that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love, offering our gifts to resist evil, injustice, oppression in any form they present themselves and proclaiming God's kin-dom of abundance, love, and peace for all God's creatures. Amen.

ANTHEM

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Megan Mueller

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come, thou Fount of Every Blessing

Megan Mueller

***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

(from *enfleshed*)

We refuse to prey upon each other. We will not mirror the ways of oppression in our relationships. We will work towards our shared dreams of communal thriving. For this is the invitation of the Spirit of Radical Hospitality who blesses our offerings. Thanks be to God, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

TFWS #2128

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray; MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White; Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 13, Matthew 10: 40-42 Inclusive Bible

Maureen Taylor

Psalm 13:

How long, [God]? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my anguish, and wallow in despair all day long? How long will my enemy win over me?

Look at me! Answer me, [my God]! Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed," lest my foes rejoice when I fall.

I trust in your love; my heart rejoices in the deliverance you bring. I'll sing to you, [God], for being so good to me.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 10: 40-42

Maureen Taylor

"Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me.

Those who welcome prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of the holy ones.

"The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Welcome Has the Final Word

Rev. Paul Perez

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Paul Perez (from *enfleshed*)

REV. PAUL PEREZ

ONE: The Holy One be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Open your hearts.

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, an Abiding Presence.

ALL: To the One who companions us through all things, we give thanks and praise.

ONE: Faithful One, we come to your table hungry for a taste of your kingdom. In a world where evil and empire come together to hoard and exploit, we crave the fruits of your Spirit. We long for kindness. We dream of peace. We hope to be disciples of generosity – sharing and redistributing the resources you intended for the flourishing of all.

Gathering at your table, we remember the ordinary gifts of heaven among us.

Those that nurture hope when it's hard to find.

That surprise us in destruction's wake.

That bring new life from sites of death.

And sustain our labors of love across generations.

In awe and gratitude, we join together in praise of you, Source of Abundance:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder
Blessed is your presence among us**

MAUREEN TAYLOR:

ONE: Since the beginning, you have been building a lineage of love and liberation.

Inviting all who wish to belong.

Through the saints and prophets,

you call us to turn from the temptations of power and individualism.

To deepen our commitments to building communities of care and justice.

And to practice a more radical solidarity across identities and communities, so that none must struggle alone.

You have shown us the way. Taken on flesh and dwelled among us.

In Jesus, we come to understand. God enfleshed as a Brown, Jewish, Palestinian man. A refugee. Born into a frowned upon familial structure, with neither security of wealth nor access to power. His life is a witness to hope that does not come from climbing ladders of power or begging for crumbs of dignity. Hope that is born in community, nurturing love, taking risks together, multiplying what we have and finding it is more than enough.

REV. TOM ROBINSON:

ONE: Jesus shared a meal with his companions, his community, his chosen family, before he would be arrested.

Filled with love for them, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

“This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:
“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

In remembrance of Jesus,
executed by the state,
faithful to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: Christ was birthed among us. Christ was killed among us. Christ rises again among us.

ONE: Gracious One, may your Spirit be poured out upon these elements. May this bread and this cup be for us a revival of hope and a renewal of courage as we encounter your presence among the ordinary gifts of life. Through the grace of your sustenance, may Christ be with us.

Amen.

REV. PAUL: Invitation to the Table

HYMN During Communion

One Bread, One Body

UMH #620

(Refrain) **One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.**

2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. *(Refrain)*

And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

We Are Called

TFWS #2172

1. **Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kin-dom, to live in the freedom of the city of God! (Refrain)**

2. **Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more! (Refrain)**

(Refrain) **We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!**

3. **Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!**

WORDS: David Haas, MUSIC: David Haas; © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

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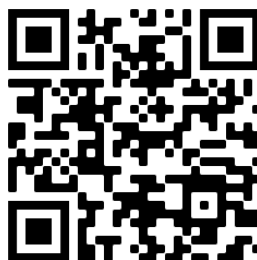
BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

(from Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World)

May God keep you safe
May your bellies be full
May your thirst be quenched
May your hearts be blessed
With knowing you are loved
And may you share that love
With all who come your way
Amen.

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.

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

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadows, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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

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)