



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

September 25, 2022

16<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 and be held in the presence of the One who shelters and befriends! Though others may pass by without noticing.

**ALL: Each life captures the loving attention of God.**

ONE: Though there are gates that ostracize and fences that turn away.

**ALL: God opens Their arms to every aching body and reaches for the isolated and alone.**

ONE: Though resources are hoarded and creation groans beneath us.

**ALL: God will raise up those who believe in justice and deliver us from the clutches of evil. Thanks be to God who brings us into Life Abundant**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*The Voice of God is Calling*

UMH #436

1. **The voice of God is calling its summons in our day; Isaiah heard in Zion, and we now hear God say, “Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need? Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?**
2. **“I hear my people crying in slum and mine and mill; no field or mart is silent, no city street is still. I see my people falling in darkness and despair. Whom shall I send to shatter the fetters which they bear?”**
3. **We heed, O God, your summons, and answer: Here are we! Send us upon your errand, let us your servants be. Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour; but you can use our weakness to magnify your power.**
4. **From ease and plenty save us, from pride of place absolve; purge us of low desire; lift us to high resolve; take us and make us holy; teach us your will and way. Speak and behold! we answer, command, and we obey!**

WORDS: John Haynes Holmes, 1913; MUSIC: William Lloyd, 1840; CCLI 2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHILDREN’S TIME**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE**

ONE: Siblings in Christ; Through the sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ’s holy church. We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price.

## **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

(Pastor addresses parents)

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**PARENTS: I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**PARENTS: I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace and promise to serve him in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, races, sexual orientations and gender identities?

**PARENTS: I do.**

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

**PARENTS: We will.**

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ.

**CONGREGATION: We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this person now before you in your care.

**CONGREGATION: With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround her with a community of love and forgiveness that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

## **THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray: Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you let them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to God, all the earth, tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare God's works to the nations, God's glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and Xan who is to receive it.

**All praise to you, Eternal God, through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

## **BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Xan, I baptize you in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer.

**Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ.

**Through baptism, you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.**

## **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN OF WELCOME**

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

UMH #611

1. Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this  
water God has sealed you unto love and  
grace divine.
2. Child of love, our love's expression,  
love's creation, loved indeed! Loved by  
God, refresh our spirits, into joy and  
laughter lead.
3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's  
you are, from God you came. Back to  
God we humbly give you; live as one  
who bears Christ's name.
4. Child of God your loving Parent, learn to  
know whose child you are. Grow to  
laugh and sing and worship, trust and  
love God more than all.

WORDS: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981; MUSIC: Attr. to C. F. Witt, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861; Words © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner; CCLI 2815228

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

As a community of people seeking together the kin-dom of God, we strive to take care of each other. Each of us, bringing our abundance to share wherever there is lack – whether lack of community, or food, a listening ear, or housing – together, we can meet each other's needs. With faith in God, our radical Provider, let us bring our offerings.

## **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.**

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of our ancestors, bless these offerings to the work of your prophets. The ones who remind us who we are and what we are capable of. The ones who reveal what is true. The ones who point us to a world where none go hungry, none are pushed to the edges, and none are treated as anything less than your beloveds. May their testimonies be blessed and may our responses be faithful. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CENTERING HYMN**

*Outside My Gate, Outside My Door* (Tune UMH #408)

1. **Outside my gate, outside my door, is something there who's lost or poor? Is someone there I do not see – that I walk by – who has a need?**
2. **Is there a child who longs for care? An older friend who needs a prayer? Someone who seeks a helping hand? A refugee new to this land?**
3. **Outside our church, is someone near who cries in pain, who lives in fear? Is someone close who has no way to buy the food she needs this day?**
4. **Some gates are made of wood or stone, and some are made of sin alone. Some doors are made of greed and pride; they also keep the poor outside.**
5. **As we look out, Christ, may we see our common, shared humanity. May we kneel down and serve you more outside our gate, outside our door.**

Tune: Traditional melody; Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. CCLI 2815228

## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 16:19-31*

(Common English Bible)

“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue because I’m suffering in this flame.’ But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’

“The rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father’s house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don’t come to this place of agony.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.’ The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.’” Abraham said, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

**MESSAGE**

*Reversal of Fortune*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Shalom to You*

UMH #666

**Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends,  
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving,  
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

Words: Elise S. Eslinger, 1980; MUSIC: Anon.; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1989; Words © 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House;  
harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI 2815229

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Every day, forces of evil push people and creatures to the edges:

To suffer alone.

To act as scapegoats for the ills of our society.

To keep us from prioritizing each other.

But God dwells with the despised  
and brings life into places meant for death.

So let us go with God,  
building Love and Justice,  
over chasms of despair,  
that we might birth new life together.

Amen.



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**  
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**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, Interim Music Director

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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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 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)