



Central United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

January 7, 2023

Baptism of Jesus

How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Trust Our Belovedness.

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

Michael Wiersma, Guest Organist

ACTS OF PRAISE

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

ONE: There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God.

Do you ever feel that way?

ALL: Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.

ONE: Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.

Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

ALL: Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

ONE: Let us worship the God who knows our names.

ALL: Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Joy to the World, v. 1, 2, & 4

UMH #246

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King; let every
heart prepare him room, and
heaven and nature sing, and heaven
and nature sing, and heaven, and
heaven, and nature sing.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and
grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and
wonders, wonders of his love.**

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1719; MUSIC: Arr, from G. F. Handel, 1741, by
Lowell Mason, 1848, CCLI 2815228

**2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ; while
fields and floods, rock, hills, and
plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat,
repeat the sounding joy.**

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Micheal Wiersma

CELEBRATION OF THE GRACE PAISLEY SMALL WORLD SHOP

ONE: “There is a time for everything, a season for every purpose under heaven ... a season to plant and to harvest ... a season to scatter stones and to gather them ... ‘
(Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2b, 5a).

ONE: Every ministry has its seasons of life. The Grace Paisley Small World Shop, a ministry founded by Central’s United Methodist Women, grew out of an annual pop up sale of SERRV fair trade products during November and December. The shop was established to sell SERRV items to members and friends of this community with the goal of supporting SERRV’s mission to empower small-scale global artisans and farmers. Over the years, it was also a ministry where people found meaning, nurtured friendships, and marked holidays and special occasions by purchasing gifts for loved ones. This season of ministry has come to a close. As with all changes there are many mixed emotions – grief, anger, regret, shame, relief, celebration.

ALL: We acknowledge our mixed emotions. God, give us the grace to hold these feelings together as a community.

ONE: Holding these emotions together, tenderly, we celebrate the ministry of The Grace Paisley Small World Shop and all that it has meant to this community and to many of us personally.

ALL: Grace Paisley Small World Shop, we thank God for you!

ONE: The Small World Shop was renamed the Grace Paisley Small World Shop in honor of Grace Paisley.

Grace was the primary organizer of the Small World Shop. She may have been soft spoken and diminutive in stature, but she was a great force working to make a difference for others. She had a strong belief that everyone was a worthy child of God and had gifts to offer. She used her talents to help others develop those gifts in her profession as a Visiting Nurse and as a civil rights worker integrating restaurants in Detroit. Grace worked with her close friend and fellow Centralite, Clara Webb, to build inter-racial relationships across churches in Metro-Detroit. Grace organized Centralites to attend many rallies and protests, including a protest of the Vietnam War in Washington, DC.

By working to establish The Small World Shop, Grace helped the United Methodist Women earn funds to continue their outreach programs while also providing income for others in developing communities globally. Grace did not need to tell anyone she was a Christian, one only had to know her. While The Grace Paisley Shop has come to a close, the gifts Grace gave to others will continue.

ALL: Grace Paisley, we thank God for you!

ONE: With gratitude, we also name those who shared their time, their leadership, and their talents with the Grace Paisley Small World Shop over the years:

Catherine Bull	Rose & Sylvester Devereaux and Family
Grace & Ray Bazmore	Byron Washington
Celeste Powell	Susan Francis
Amanda Gudme	Josefina Ford
Clara Webb	Heather & Marcus Dickson
Wendy Hamilton	Many others

ALL: Saints of the Grace Paisley Small World Shop, we thank God for you!

ONE: Every ministry has its season of life. Sometimes a ministry simply comes to an end. Sometimes a ministry changes and grows so much that it is barely recognizable. Sometimes a ministry, like a great tree fallen in the woods, becomes a nurse log for new ministries to sprout up and grow. Please pray with me.

ALL: God of the turning seasons, who holds together the beginning, the end, and all that lies between. Bless the ending of this ministry. Give us the grace to grieve what needs to be grieved and celebrate what needs to be celebrated. And keep us ever open to the new things you are doing in our midst. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

The Work of Christmas,
music by Dan Forrest, lyrics by Howard Thurman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Go Tell It!* Traditional African American Spiritual, Arr. By Jack Schrader

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**

Wade in the Water

TFWS #2107

(Refrain) **Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water, God's a gonna trouble the water.**

**3. Look over yonder, what do I see?
God's a gonna trouble the water,
The Holy Ghost a comin on me,
God's a gonna trouble the water.
*(Refrain)***

**1. See that host all dressed in white,
God's a gonna trouble the water.
The Leader looks like the Israelite,
God's a gonna trouble the water.
*(Refrain)***

**2. See that band all dressed in red,
God's a gonna trouble the water.
Looks like the band that Moses led,
God's a gonna trouble the water.
*(Refrain)***

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. by Carl Haywood; Arr. © 1992 Carl Haywood; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 3: 1-6; 21-22

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene. In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert. John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

“A herald’s voice in the desert, crying,

‘Make ready the way of our God;

Clear a straight path,

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The twisted paths will be made straight, and the rough road smooth—and all humankind will see the salvation of God.”

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened

And the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, “You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favor rests.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Trust Our Belovedness

Rev. Paul Perez

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (adapted from *Enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: The Holy One be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

ALL: To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise.

ONE: God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

Therefore, we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

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

ONE: Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.

And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

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

ONE: After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

ALL: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

ONE: In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

ONE: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Aliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated.

In collective longing for a taste of your Kin-dom on earth,
we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

**ALL: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory for ever.
Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we recognize the ways you still make yourself vulnerable to us today. In gratitude for a taste of your Kin-dom, may our discipleship shape us into fierce protectors of the vulnerable, give us courage to practice our own vulnerability, and help us to honor the sacredness of our need for one another. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Are Called

TFWS #2172

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

WORDS: David Haas; MUSIC: David Haas; © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION



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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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.

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)