



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

January 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

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: People of God, Divine Mystery comes to dwell among us. With hospitality, let us turn our attention to the Spirit.

ALL: We welcome unfamiliar ideas. We open to surprising revelations. We celebrate a multiplicity of truths.

ONE: People of God, there is freedom in letting go of the need to be certain. Let us trade individual arrogance for collective humility:

ALL: That fresh wisdom may emerge, Love may deepen, and paths of collective liberation may manifest.

ONE: Come, Spirit, come.

***OPENING HYMN**

Here I Am, Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6fYAiqV-Bs>

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconness Anne Hillman

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, when the world is full of so much uncertainty, we can cling tightly to what we know. We acknowledge that our need to feel secure can become a barrier to transformation. May your Spirit guide and support us as we seek to let go of the need to control through knowledge or ideas. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has filled our lives with sources of wisdom and surrounded us with an abundance of divine messengers. The land is a teacher. The prophets, a lighthouse. Our bodies, carriers of stories ancient and intimate. For God dwells here among us, incarnate in flesh. For these gifts of divine presence, let us bring our offerings in thanks.

OFFERTORY

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Guiding One, we know there are times we have turned against your messengers. When our certainties are troubled or our comfort is threatened, we can push truth away. Still, we pray our community becomes a faithful and trustworthy friend to all your prophets and wisdom. Bless this offering to furthering the good news in all its liberative forms. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

***CENTERING HYMN**

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvO8QTa7API>

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 4:21-30

from the Inclusive Bible

Then Jesus said to them, “Today, in your hearing, this scripture passage is fulfilled.”

All who were present spoke favorably of him; they marveled at the eloquence of the words on Jesus’ lips. They said, “Surely this isn’t Mary and Joseph’s son!”

Jesus said to them, “Undoubtedly you’ll quote me the proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself,’ and say ‘Do here in your own country the things we heard you did in Capernaum.’ But the truth is, prophets never gain acceptance in their hometowns.

“The truth is, there were many women who were widowed in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens remained closed for three and a half years and a great famine spread over the land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but to a woman who had been widowed in Zarephath, near Sidon. Recall, too, that many had leprosy in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one was cured except Naaman the Syrian.”

At those words, the whole audience in the synagogue was filled with indignation. They rose up and dragged Jesus out of town, leading him to the brow of the hill on which the city was built, with the intention of hurling him over the edge. But he moved straight through the crowd and walked away.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

A Prophet is Not Welcome

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CLOSING HYMN

The Voice of God is Calling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vau6A17kjW0>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

The Incarnate One reveals their truths through ordinary bodies and everyday flesh, creaturely and human alike. Seeking the enfleshed divine, let us pay attention to the messages of our own beating hearts, to the hungers and desires of our neighbors, and to the earth's groaning, surviving, and teaching. All we need, God has already provided. Go in peace, open to every encounter with truth. Amen.

Central United Methodist Church

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