



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810 Incorporated 1822 Sanctuary completed 1867

Working for peace and justice in three centuries

October 9, 2022

18th Sunday After Pentecost:

Environmental Justice Sunday



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. The prelude is a time for prayer and meditation.

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

OPENING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures! Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all. (Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ONE: We thank you for the stars in the vastness of space: sparkling jewels, and the holy darkness all around

ALL: reminding us that it was your creative energy that made it all possible.

ONE: On this Environmental Justice Sunday, we thank you for a green and blue ball, a precious gift, matchless in its beauty and full of life—our earth, our home, our sacred space.

ALL: The Earth is Yours and the fullness thereof.

ONE: Our blue planet is more water than “earth.” We celebrate the miracle of water, life-giving water; water in oceans, lakes, rivers, creeks, and wetlands.

ALL: We are particularly grateful for the Detroit River and the Great Lakes, of which it is a part: freshwater seas which surround us on this “pleasant peninsula” you have allowed us to call home.

ONE: Today we are also grateful for the diversity and beauty of all living beings we share our home with and the diversity of peoples and cultures that enrich our lives.

ALL: We praise you for humans of many hues, herons and harriers, dragonflies and frogs, Red-winged Blackbirds and turtles, salamanders and eagles, cattails and sturgeon, muskrats and ducks; all dependent on water.

ONE: Breathe upon us as you did upon the waters and wake us up!

ALL: We are anxious to become soaked with Your Spirit today; to become wet with life and love!

(written by Jim Bull)

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens UMH #150

- 1. God who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and space, flung the suns in burning radiance through the holy dark of space, we your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you, Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**
- 2. Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings, row on row, yet their windows blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below, where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city’s ebb and flow, lost to purpose and to meaning, society choosing not to know.**
- 3. We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race; known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space; probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power, facing us with life’s destruction or our most triumphant hour.**
- 4. As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew, children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you. May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun, Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Anne Hillman

LITANY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Byron Washington

(adapted from a litany provided by Sister Janet Ryan)

ONE: Let there be peace, welfare, and righteousness in every part of the world. Let confidence and friendship prevail for the good of east and west, for the good of the needy south, for the good of all humanity.

ALL: We are committed to live in harmony with Mother Earth.

ONE: Let the people inspire their leaders helping them to seek peace by peaceful means, helping them and urging them to build a better world, a world with a home for everybody, a world with spiritual freedom for everybody.

ALL: We are committed to live in harmony with Mother Earth.

ONE: Let those who have the power of money be motivated by selfless compassion. Let money become a tool for the good of humankind.

ALL: We are committed to live in harmony with Mother Earth.

ONE: Let those who have power deal respectfully with the resources of the planet. Let them respect and maintain the purity of the air, water, land and subsoil. Let them co-operate to restore the ecological soundness of Mother Earth.

ALL: We are committed to live in harmony with Mother Earth.

ONE: Let those who believed in economic and environmental justice grow more deeply in understanding how the whole web of life must be respected so that all earthly creatures thrive. Let us all gathered at Central United Methodist Church today feel empowered to make economic and environmental justice manifest throughout the world.

ALL: We are committed to bring economic and environmental justice to all people and all beings who share Mother Earth.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

Brother Sun, Sister Moon

Laura Burger, soprano

(an adaptation St. Francis's Canticle of the Sun by Donovan Leitch)

From the 1972 film of the same name. Used by permission Sony/ATV music publishing

Brother Sun and Sister Moon
I seldom see you, seldom hear your tune;
preoccupied with selfish misery.

Brother Wind and Sister Air,
open my eyes to visions pure and fair
that I may see the glory around me.

I am God's creature, of God I am part
I feel God's love awakening my heart.

Brother Sun and Sister Moon,
I now do see you, I can hear your tune
So much in love with all that I survey.

***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

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ONE: We consecrate these gifts and our lives to one great purpose

ALL: Tuning our lives to the sustaining power of Your creation, that all people and all creatures may have enough.

ONE: Loving God, we accept responsibility

ALL: To work for peace and justice for all

ONE: Nurturing God, we commit ourselves

ALL: To be the body of Christ, bringing healing and reconciliation to a hurting world, and being good stewards of all of Your creation. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

CENTERING HYMN

God, You Made Your Good Creation

Sung to the tune of UMH #581

1. God, you made your good creation and you hold it in your care — From each starry constellation to each forest under-layer. Tiny creatures, mountain splendor, rivers, lakes and ocean floors —You are loving, kind and tender in your care for what is yours.

3. God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your only Son. "Here on earth as in your heaven," God, we pray, "Your will be done." By your Spirit, may we listen to the earth and to the poor; May we care for all you've given till creation is restored.

2. Yet, O God, the earth is crying, times are changing, storms are strong. Now the coral reefs are dying, floods are raging, droughts are long. Though the circumstances differ, when the earth is in distress, See! The poor are first to suffer from our greed and selfishness.

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly, 1961; MUSIC: Attr. to B.F.White, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978; Words © 1961 Oxford University Press; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; CCLI 2815228
Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

CONTEMPORARY READING

Isaiah Thomason-Redus

While economic growth has been good for some, it has been devastating for others; the by-products of growth and development have threatened the lives of people who breathe polluted air, drink contaminated water, and whose children play on polluted soil. Because of the legacy of racism and classism in the state of Michigan, poor people are forced to live and work in areas with the greatest negative environmental impact.

On the other hand (studies have shown) that cities (and even countries) with ambitious environmental regulations have had the highest level of economic growth.

The question is not growth, but how do we grow in sustainable ways that ensure distributive justice and in ways that support cultural and biological diversity. We need a Marshall Plan... to clean up our cities to make them environmentally benign and livable. --Bunyan Bryant and Elaine Hockman, from *Michigan: A State of Environmental Justice*. 2011

On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. As Jesus was entering a village, ten people with leprosy met him. Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Rabbi, have pity on us!”

When Jesus saw them he responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

As they were going, they were healed. One of them realizing what had happened, came back praising God in a loud voice, then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. The individual was a Samaritan.

Jesus replied, “Weren’t all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return to give thanks but this foreigner?” Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, “Stand up and go your way, your faith has healed you.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Jim Bull

HOMILY

The Gift is Given

Sister Janet Ryan, IHM

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God, Creation Sings Your Praises

Sung to the tune of UHM #731

1. **God, creation sings your praises; mountains echo from afar. All your blessings here amaze us; hills rejoice how great you are! In the whole of your creation, in each sea and wood and glade, We are called to have dominion over all that you have made.**
2. **We've ignored your wise instruction to take care of what you give. For our greed has caused destruction and your world cries out to live. Though you've given us your bounty by your kind and loving hand, In the search for power and money, we've abused sea, sky and land.**
3. **God, you give creation limits so creation will be blessed. You set planets in their orbits; you give days for Sabbath rest. You make fruit not for consuming, things to stay where they are found, and with great disaster looming — fuel to keep within the ground.**
4. **Still, your limits aren't to crush us, or to stifle or devour. Sun and tide and wind refresh us, giving light and warmth and power. You give new imagination, love to heal our neighbors' pain, Lives to build up your creation till the earth is whole again.**
5. **God, you give to us a vision of this world we're called to seek. Where creation joins in singing, where the strong protect the weak, where your people serve each other, wanting only what is best. May we work with one another till creation so is blessed.**

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; MUSIC: Croatian folk song; arr. by Franz Joseph Hayden, 1797; CCLI 2815228; Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Sister Janet Ryan

POSTLUDE



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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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

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)

Our ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sunday guest preacher,



Sister Janet Ryan, IHM

Janet Ryan, is an IHM Sister from Monroe, Michigan. She has served as an elementary school teacher, a religious education director, a Clinical Pastoral Educator and a Director of Spiritual Care Departments in Michigan and Ohio. Janet has worked as chaplain and chaplain educator for many years with 15 years in the Detroit Medical Center and fourteen of them at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

From 2000-2012 Janet was the IHM Leadership Council’s liaison for the restoration and reconfiguration of the IHM Monroe Campus, which was executed guided by ecological best practices using cutting edge technology. The IHM Mission for the Millennium was the basis for their Campus becoming an ecological learning laboratory which has inspired change to building practices in Southeast Michigan (and beyond). Currently Janet serves as an IHM Mission Integration Coordinator and as an ecology advocate. She writes a bi-monthly ecology focused column for the Monroe News. She believes that the climate crisis is also a spiritual crisis for humanity.

Join us for a forum with Sister Janet on the 4th floor immediately after church, where we will show the video, The Blue Nuns go Green, which tells the story of how the IHM Campus in Monroe was recreated as a model of environmental sustainability. She will also give a short presentation followed by questions and dialogue.

Today’s service is sponsored by Central’s Green Team: Byron Washington and Jim Bull, co-chairs, Janet Moody, and Clara Lawrence. (We would love new members, just ask one of us and we’ll gladly add you to the team!)