



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 13, 2022

Consecration 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

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Beloveds, come with gratitude and generosity! The journey is calling.

ALL: God is blessing us right now.

ONE: Beautiful travelers, our cup overflows.

ALL: Jesus holds the map, the compass, the light, the bull horn and protest signs.

ONE: Blessed ones, there is a place in this line reserved especially for you.

ALL: The Spirit choreographs and designs our steps as we make the way by doing.

*OPENING HYMN

We Are Called

adapted from 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 kingdom to live in the freedom of the city of God!

(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!**

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 with be no more!

(Refrain)

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)

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

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

SETTING THE PACE

As we continue on our way, take a moment to relax our shoulders, set our feet firmly on the floor, shift our posture, move to a comfortable position, feel our pulse, notice our breathing, and take a few deep breaths.

Let us set aside all distractions, setting our phones, worries and preoccupations to do not disturb.

We make the way by doing and the first step on the way is committing to being fully present. We have traveled the Way of Necessity, the Way of Poverty, the Way of Authority, and today we enter the Way of Central. I invite you to hold out your hands, which already have a map, a compass, a light; and now receive the bullhorn and the protest sign, symbols of who we are as a community and the work we are called to do in this world. Allow these gifts to guide your mind, your heart, and your steps.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Evelyn Foreman

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

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

*CENTERING HYMN

What Gift Can We Bring

UMH #87

- 1. What gift can we bring, what present, what token? What words can convey it, the joy of this day? When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, what song can we offer in honor and praise?**
- 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision, who planted and watered so dreams could come true. Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship, for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.**

- 3. Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises, for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring, the Word is our promise always, forever; we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.**
- 4. This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!**

WORDS: Jane Marshall, 1980; MUSIC: June Marshall, 1980; © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:42-47

The Inclusive Bible

They devoted themselves to the apostles' instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need. They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

The Way of Central

Sheilah Clay

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: God be with us as we journey to the table.

ALL: And with all who travel on this day.

ONE: Let us lift our hands and hearts in thanksgiving.

ALL: It is a good and wondrous thing to lift our gratitude and joy.

ONE: The time is right to thank God for the journey of these last four weeks. Together we have bravely navigated new paths and explored new ways. We celebrate God's guidance and provision.

God, the ancient scriptures tell a story of a people who do not live or travel alone. We thank you for providing the map, the compass, the light, all the tools we need to live abundantly and do your work in this world. And now as your people, gathered and journeying together we pray,

ALL: O God, our guide and light; lead us to your table. You are our portion and supply; may we be filled with all our bodies and spirits need. We come seeking more of You. More love. More grace. More mercy. More compassion. More peace. More justice. Once we receive this heaping plate, this cup overflowing with your sweet manna, fill us with the courage and desire to offer it freely to others.

ONE: Holy are you and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ, born in a humble stable as his family traveled the hillside looking for a safe place to lodge. As a toddler his family was forced to flee their homeland by the political orders of a tyrannical leader. Jesus offers us a map for how to live in a world of unintended borders and threats of violence.

ALL: Thank you God for a map.

ONE: As an adolescent Jesus sojourned to the holy city with family for the celebration of Passover. He stayed behind without his parents knowing; drawn to the temple and the teachers, to the questions and conversations about scripture and tradition. He offers us a compass pointing us in the direction of who and what matters most.

ALL: Thank you God for a compass.

ONE: Throughout his ministry his teachings shine a light on what it means to follow in the ways of God and the places where the Good News is most needed. Jesus is a light for us and reminds us that we, too, the church, as called to be the light for the world.

ALL: Thank you God for light.

ONE: Jesus did not run from trouble, injustice or oppression. He faced it head on, even when it made him an enemy of the state. He organized, he protested, he agitated, he spoke words of truth to power and challenge to principalities. Signs and bull horns, he gives us what we need to march for peace and justice.

ALL: Thank you, God, for tools of change and transformation.

ONE: Nazareth, Bethany, Bethesda, Bethlehem, Cana, Capernaum, Caesarea, Egypt, Emmaus, Golgotha, Gethsemane, Jericho, Jerusalem; Jesus was a traveler. He made the way by going and doing. He received and offered hospitality and welcome. Finding rest and shelter in the homes of family and friends. Inviting others to travel with him. He was a sage and a student, teaching and learning along the road. He prayed and ate, alone and with others. No meal quite like his last.

As shadows hung heavy overhead, he sat at a table with his disciples. He took the warm, fresh baked bread, broke it and said, "Take, eat, this is my body broken for you. Remember me as often as you do this." Then he took the cup overflowing with sweet fruit from the vine, prayed to God and shared it saying, "This is the cup of a new life. As often as you drink this, remember me." Eating, we remember the leaven of a new dawn rising. Drinking, we remember the cup of light, the flavor of a new day.

Holy Spirit, continue stirring among us, opening us to the light of remembrance. As we share this bread of a new day and cup of new life, may your light shine on all who hunger and thirst. Those who travel by choice and for refuge. Those who travel alone and by cover of night. Those who are separated from loved ones. Those who wait for danger to pass that they might safely journey on. Those without a map, or a compass, or a lantern, or the tools that would aid them on the way.

We remember Jesus who traveled and supported travelers, whose life and death model for us all how to make a way by doing. God continue to be our Light and our Salvation. Hold us. Guide us. Lead us. As the journey goes on, renew our strength and resolve. Resurrect our hope and joy. We thank you for your love, we praise you for all your gifts and the opportunity to offer our gifts to the world.

ALL: Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

ONE: This table was handmade by God and set by the hands of Jesus. The Spirit's holy hands call you forth. This table does not belong to any church, to any denomination, to any one individual. This table is open to all who journey and seek to be fed. For those worshipping with us online and for those who watch this service at a later time, this table is not limited in any way. The invitation extends to wherever you are in this moment. The healing and nourishment of this bread and cup are present in the extraordinary and everyday food and drink you consume.

As you journey forward this morning, you are also invited to place your stewardship pledge cards in the basket. This invitation is not compulsory. If you are a guest with us or if you are simply not ready to take this step, you are invited to come forward to pause at the basket, to thank God for the gifts you've received and ask for insight on how and where you can share your gifts with the world.

Now come, let us make the way by doing.

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Come to This Table

(Tune UMH #131)

1. We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving. We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray. We hear Jesus' welcome – inviting, forgiving; We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.
2. We dine at your table as sisters and brothers, Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one. The bread and the cup that we share here with others Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.
3. We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?" We pray for the cycles of violence to cease. Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.
4. We rise from this table with new dedication, To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed, To clear out the minefields, to care for creation; We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.

Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626; Text: Copyright ©2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved; CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

The tools have been given to us, we have responded to the call.

Let us make the path by walking it, obedient to God's word and God's leading.

Let us go in peace. Amen.

(The Stewardship Theme is based on 2014 UMC Stewardship resources and scripture texts provided by UMC Discipleship Ministries. Calls to worship, prayers, litanies, and communion liturgy are original works of Rebecca Wilson unless otherwise attributed)



**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. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

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