



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 14, 2021  
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

## 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: God has created a world of beauty, diversity, and such enoughness; a world designed to perpetuate beauty and to recycle wastes endlessly as essential ingredients for new life.

**ALL: We come to praise God for that great gift.**

ONE: We come knowing that it is not enough to provide for ourselves but that we need to act wisely so that all life and all ecosystems are sustained so that our posterity can be sustained and we may live abundantly.

**ALL: We come to learn and then go forth to walk in the ways of sustainability.**

ONE: Through the prophets and through Jesus, God has made clear the mandate for justice for all peoples and all of creation.

**ALL: We come to renew our commitment to work for justice for all peoples and for all of creation.**

ONE: Our God has created this day!

**ALL: Let us celebrate what God has done.**

## **\*OPENING**

*This is My Father's World* (adapted from UMH #144)

**1. This is my Father's world; and to my listening ears, all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.**

**3. This is my Maker's world; oh, let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Maker's world; why should my heart be sad? The heavens ring; let nature sing. God reigns; let the earth be glad.**

**2. This is my Mother's world; the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the flowers bright, declare their Maker's praise. This is my Mother's world; she shines in all that's fair; in rustling grass I hear her pass; she speaks to me everywhere.**

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# ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## MORNING PRAYER

ONE: You created a world of amazing abundance. There is such sufficiency in what your hand has wrought.

**ALL: Forgive us for the times we have been blind to that enoughness.**

ONE: Too often we hoard resources, while people go hungry and our fellow creatures look in vain for habitat to sustain themselves, and we have produced systems that poison the earth.

**ALL: Help us to live in harmony with the systems you created that sustain life and produce it more abundantly.**

ONE: Open our eyes to the elegant systems you created, embodied in trees that put out exorbitant flowers and fruits, yet produce no toxins, and use what is left over to grow and flower again; that produce leaves that capture sunlight energy, turn color, then fall to the ground to become nutrients to grow more trees.

**ALL: Help us to emulate that tree wisdom as we build a better world, as co-creators with you, and following Your example.**

ONE: Help us to listen and heed the warnings of Climate Scientists, who are modern prophets calling us to wake up and take bold actions necessary to care for our planet home and future generations of all species. Forgive us for our failure to see what is before our eyes, and our arrogance for thinking we know better than You. Help us see the path ahead to sustainable living as an exciting adventure we are taking with you, not drudgery.

**ALL: In your love, help us find the way to sustainable, loving abundant living for all. Give us the courage to take up the challenge to be co-creators with you, as your stewards in renewing the earth. Be with us as we embark on re-development on this land, that what we do here may be a blessing for all.**

ONE: We pray this in the name of Jesus who lived, died and lives in us to give us this chance.

**ALL: Amen!**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*All Good Gifts*

Bobbi Thompson

**\*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

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

**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 to be good stewards of all your creation. Amen.**

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON *Genesis 1:16-18*

From the Inclusive Bible

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls upon the ground.” Human kind was created as God’s reflection; in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them. God blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers and fill the earth – and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things on earth.”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**\*CENTERING HYMN**

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

UMH #122

1. God of the sparrow, God of the whale,  
God of the swirling stars, How does the  
creature say Awe, how does the  
creature say Praise?
2. God of the earthquake, God of the  
storm, God of the trumpet blast, How  
does the creature cry Woe, How does  
the creature cry Save?
3. God of the rainbow, God of the cross,  
God of the empty grave, How does the  
creature say Grace, How does the  
creature say Thanks?
4. God of the hungry God of the sick, God  
of the prodigal, How does the creature  
say Care, How does the creature say  
Life?
5. God of the neighbor, God of the foe,  
God of the pruning hook, How does the  
creature say Love, How does the  
creature say Peace?
6. God of the ages, God near at hand,  
God of the loving heart, How do your  
children say Joy, How do your children  
say Home?

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## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON**

*Matthew 6:25-30*

from the Inclusive Bible

“That’s why I tell you not to worry about your livelihood, what you are to eat or drink or use for clothing. Isn’t life more than just food? Isn’t the body more than just clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow or reap; they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them. Aren’t you more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your lifespan?

“And why be anxious about clothing? Learn a lesson from the way wildflowers grow. They don’t work; they don’t spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown into the fire tomorrow, won’t God do so much more for you – you who have such little faith?

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Charles Morris

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *God, You Made Your Good Creation*      (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.**

*Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")*  
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## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Father Charles Morris

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