



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

August 27, 2023

Women's Equality Day

13th Sunday After Pentecost

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; W&S = Worship & Song

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Karen Tyler Ruiz

ONE: Come, like Sister Miriam, leading the Hebrew people out of bondage with tambourines and dance!

ALL: We come to our God with praise.

ONE: Come, like Sister Martha, running through the dark with courage, proclaiming that Jesus is God!

ALL: We come to our God with our doubt and our faith.

ONE: Come and proclaim justice, like the many women who give of their time and passion in public service and in government.

ALL: We come to our God with hope.

ONE: Come sisters and brothers as you are and join in the worship of the One who unites all women, all men, all children.

ALL: Here we are! We raise our voices in unity and celebration! Praise to the One who unites us all.

Adapted from "Hearing the Voices Worship Service" Carrie Eikler, Morgantown pastor

11. Come, Celebrate the Women

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: *Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle*

ELLACOMBE

7.6.7.6.D.

1. Come, cel - e - brate the wom - en who brought the Church to birth!
 2. The teach - ers, saints and moth - ers who lived and died un - sung
 3. Daugh - ters of the dis - ci - ples, you weave the sto - ry still,

the gen - tle rev - o - lu - tion that shall trans - form the earth:
 kept safe the gos - pel sto - ry and taught it to the young;
 the fab - ric of the fu - ture with warmth and love and skill,

whose faith was salt and leav - en, whose hearts and minds were free,
 the Christ child Ma - ry cra - dled, the liv - ing Word to be
 you make the bread of whole - ness, the wine of har - mo - ny—

and this was their di - rec - tion— to peace and u - ni - ty.
 was cru - ci - fied for plead - ing this peace and u - ni - ty.
 and all shall share your feast - ing in peace and u - ni - ty!

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Tim Graves)

Helen Monroe

The mother's labor is beginning. She screams out at the birth pangs. We join in chorus, "the world is coming to an end!" forgetting that new life is born out of pain. Choose to be a part of the new life. Share your skills, talents, and resources. Commit today to serve as midwife to God's divine plan.

OFFERTORY

I Send My Heart Up To Thee by Amy Beach

Laura Burger

***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

Helen Monroe

Holy One may these gifts of time, talent, and wealth be midwives in the birthing of your realm on earth. Guide us that we use these gifts wisely and as you desire. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Maggie Reese

*SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1: 15 – 21 Inclusive Bible

Cynthia Bradford

Pharaoh spoke to the midwives of the Hebrews—one was Shiphrah, and the other Puah—and said, "When you assist the Hebrew women in childbirth, examine them on the birthing-stool. If the baby is a boy, kill it. If it is a girl, let it live."

But the midwives were God-fearing women, and they ignored the Pharaoh's instructions, and let the male babies live.

So Pharaoh summoned the midwives and asked why they let the male babies live. The midwives responded, "These Hebrew women are different from Egyptian women; they are more robust and deliver even before the midwife arrives."

God rewarded the midwives, and the people increased in numbers and in power. And since the midwives were God-fearing, God gave them families of their own.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*CENTERING HYMN

There Is a Line of Women

There is a line of women
Words: John L. Bell
Music: THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY, English traditional, arr. John L. Bell

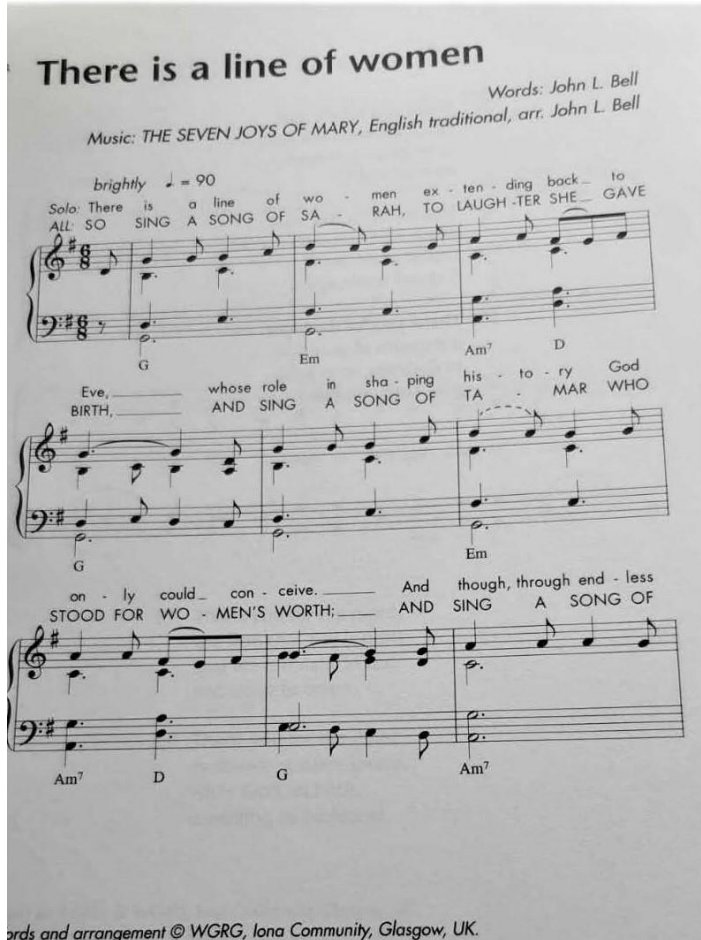
brightly ♩ = 90

Solo: There is a line of wo - men, ex - ten - ding back - to
ALL: SO SING A SONG OF SA - RAH, TO LAUGH - TER SHE GAVE

Eve, whose role in sha - ping his - to - ry God
BIRTH, AND SING A SONG OF TA - MAR WHO

on - ly could con - ceive. And though, through end - less
STOOD FOR WO - MEN'S WORTH; AND SING A SONG OF

ords and arrangement © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, UK.



a - ges, their wit - ness was re - pressed,
HAN - NAH WHO BAR - GAINED WITH HER LORD;

God va - lued and en - cou - raged them through
AND SING A SONG OF MA - RY WHO

whom the world was blessed.
BORE AND BRED GOD'S WORD.



2. There is a line of women
who took on powerful men,
defying laws and scruples
to let life live again.
And though, despite their triumph
their stories stayed untold
God kept their number growing,
creative, strong and bold.

So sing a song of Shiphrah
with Puah at her hand,
engaged to kill male children
they foiled the king's command.
And sing a song of Rahab
who sheltered spies and lied;
and sing a song of Eshter,
preventing genocide.

3. There is a line of women
who stood by Jesus' side,
who housed him while he ministered
and held him when he died.
And though they claimed he'd risen
their news was deemed suspect
till Jesus stood among them,
his womanly elect.

So sing a song of Anna
who saw Christ's infant face;
and sing a song of Martha
who gave him food and space;
And sing of all the Marys
who heeded his requests,
and now at heaven's banquet
are Jesus' fondest guests.

MIDWIVES LITANY (Fran Pratt)

ONE: God, you have saved us by many creative means

ALL: Over the years of humanity's existence.

ONE: You've saved your people by means of trumpets and shouts,

ALL: by means of manna from heaven,

ONE: by means of water from rocks,

ALL: by means of the miraculous and the mundane.

ONE: And you've saved your people by means of valiant midwives.

ALL: Those women entrusted to usher the future into the world

ONE: In the midst of pain and travail,

ONE: With wisdom, experience, and alertness.

ONE: May we all be like the midwives,

ALL: Working in quiet devotion

ONE: Or in subversive creativity --

ALL: Those who care for those who carry,

ONE: Those who comfort and calm,

ALL: Those who shift breaches and unblock exits,

ONE: Those who urge us to PUSH when the time is right,

ALL: Those who know when to wait and when to cut,

ONE: Those who catch slippery bundles of goodness as they emerge,

ALL: Those who bind up wounds of effort.

ONE: May we have the vision of the midwives

ALL: Who could imagine a future beyond what they could see,

ONE: And were willing to risk their lives and reputations

ALL: To give it a chance to arrive.

ONE: We thank you for the Midwives,

ALL: For those who are as shrewd as serpents,

ONE: As innocent as doves,

ALL: Protecting the future as it is born.

AMEN

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

MESSAGE

Anne Hillman, Nicole Gerring, Megan Mueller

***CLOSING HYMN**

For All the Faithful Women Text: Herman Stuempfle, Jr

THE CHURCH

324 For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm

all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb

glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb

lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Karen Tyler Ruiz

God, we thank You for the witness of Shiphrah and Puah, who disobeyed Pharaoh's orders in order to obey what they believed You wanted them to do. Even today we as disciples of Christ may be called upon to peacefully resist human-made laws while being true to Your commandments. Give us courage and strength to live as You would have us to do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen. (Alan Harvey)

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



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

23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422

www.centralumchurchdetroit.org; cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org

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

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent & Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadows, 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 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)