



## Central United Methodist Church

### *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,

Sanctuary completed 1867

May 17, 2026

## SEVENTH OF EASTER

### Asian American Pacific Islander Month

#### 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal, TFWS = The Faith We Sing

#### ACTS OF PRAISE

##### PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

##### WELCOME

\***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: God hovered over the waters and brought forth life.

**ALL: Delighting in earth's creatures and creations, God called these wonders "good!"**

ONE: Stirring the waters again and again,

God points us back to our divine beginnings

while also ushering us towards new forms of life.

Let us remember anew with joy God's proclamations over creation:

**ALL: The earth and all its creatures are beloved.**

**All life is Sacred.**

**Each person, birthed from the Divine.**

ONE: Thanks be to God, who calls us back to ourselves - beloved and good and free to pursue life together.

**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**

**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 the children say Home**

WORDS: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983; MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983; Words © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda;  
music © 1983 G.I.A Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

## **GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**



**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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** (see insert)

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*This Is My Song*

music by Jean Sibelius, words by Lloyd Stone and Georgia Harkness

Arthur Park (Korea), Zosette Guir (Philippines), Joseph Stevenson (Japan), Stuart Jacobson (Hawaii)

*The AAPI community is known as the “invisible minority”. This song speaks to the equality of all humanity.*



**For electronic giving, please use this QR Code**

## Doxology (Ho`onani i ka Makua Mau) by Thomas Ken

### In Hawaiian:

**G D Em Bm Em D G**  
Ho`onani i ka Ma---ku---a mau,

**D Em C G D**  
Ke Keiki me ka `Uha---ne Nō,

**Em D G D G C D7 G**  
Ke Aku--a mau ho`omaika`i pū

**Em D Am G D7 G C Cm G**  
Ko kē---iā ao, ko kē---lā ao. A-----mene.

Source: *Based on scripture from Ephesians 1:3, the doxology is a way of praising God for our blessings. The doxology is typically sung for grace before meals.*

`Ukulele Kani E – 2014

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### ANTHEM

*My Tribute*, by Andraé Crouch

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 3:13-17*

Joseph Stevenson

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!"

But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE:**

Rev. Paul Perez

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*The Gift Love*

UMH #408

- 1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**
  
- 2. Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**
  
- 3. Come Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship and are freed.**

WORDS: Hal Hopson, 1972; MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1972;  
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## **BENEDICTION**

### **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH ( from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters* )**

Remember from where you come: From earth formed by the hands of the Divine. From waters through which new life is always being birthed. From love that surges throughout creation, always reaching towards justice, generation after generation. May we remember and be renewed in care for one another and all our neighbors. Go in peace, beloved people of God. Amen.

### **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**Central United Methodist Church**  
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Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister  
Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus  
Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries  
Margaret Reese, Director of Music  
Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist  
Debra Cox, Office Administrator &  
Angela Bakeley, Receptionist  
Dave Wilson, Building Manager

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)