



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 1, 2023

18th 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. W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing

**PRELUDE AND INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson & Augustus Williamson

## **ACTS OF PRAISE**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(adapted from a World Communion Sunday Liturgy from Canada, by Richard Blott)

ONE: The whole world is in God's hands.

**ALL: Everything that lives and breaths. Everything that simply is. Everything.**

ONE: From the farthest spaces to the inmost places!

**ALL: God is with us and we are with God. Alleluia!**

ONE: With our siblings around the world, those profess faith in Christ, and those who live other paths, we celebrate Life and Love!

**ALL: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Gather Us In*

TFWS #2236

**1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. — Gather us in —the lost and forsaken, gather us in— the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us a new to be salt for the earth.—Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place that new light is shining, now is the King-dom, now is the day.—Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in—all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

WORDS: Marty Haugen; MUSIC: Marty Haugen' © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Augustus Williamson

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **ANTHEM**

*Communion Kum Ba Yah* by Bret Rhoades and Steve Kupferschmid

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

*He Lives*

Brandon Reeves, Piano



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code.

**\*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**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*CENTERING HYMN**                      *Come to the Table of Grace*                      W&S #3168

**1. Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of Grace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.**

**3. Come to the table of love ...**

**4. Come to the table of joy...**

WORDS: Barbara Hamm; MUSIC: Barabara Hamum; © 2008 Barbara Hamm; CCLI 2815228

**2. Come to the table of peace...**

## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**\*SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand)                      \*                      *Acts 2:42-47*

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 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**

*A Peculiar People: Open Table*

Rev. Paul Perez

## **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**ONE:** God is with you.

**ALL:** **And with your spirit.**

**ONE:** Lift up your hearts.

**ALL:** **We lift our hearts to God.**

**ONE:** Let us give thanks to God, our God.

**ALL:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**ONE:** We do give you thanks, and we do praise you, God of all creation. From before there was a beginning, until after there is an end, you were and are and always will be. All creation is animate – alive – in you, and with you, and beside you. For everything that is, came into being through you. In praise and thanksgiving, with leaves that whisper, brooks that babble, coyotes that yip, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the squirmers and the squiggles – even the stars above, we join in this unending hymn of praise ...

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.**

**ONE: For we, who follow the Way of Jesus, this is a day we remember all who gather to eat the bread and drink from the cup. We come together to re-member, that we are Christ's people, all around the world.**

ONE: On the night before he was taken to his death,  
Jesus gathered with his followers,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you,  
God of all creation,  
and offered it to those gathered at the table,

**ALL: Take this and eat.  
This is my life, given for you.  
Each time you eat it, remember me.**

ONE: After the meal was over,  
he took a cup of wine, and gave thanks to you,  
God of all love.  
He offered it to those gathered at the table,

**ALL: Take this and drink.  
This is my promise, is my love,  
poured out for you.  
Each time you drink it, remember me.**

ONE: So we eat, we drink, and we remember.  
We eat, we drink, and we remember.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.  
We celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present,  
in these gifts, and in us,  
that they – and we – can be Christ's gifts to the world. Amen**

## **SHARING THE BREAD & CUP**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

#### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

UMH #549

**1. Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found; brought  
here together by Christ's love, by  
love are we thus bound.**

**3. Forgive we now each other's faults  
as we our faults confess; and let us  
love each other well in Christian  
holiness.**

**6. Love can exclude no race or creed if  
honored be God's name; our  
common life embraces all whose  
Marker is the same.**

WORDS: 9<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin; trans. by Omer Westendorf, 1961;  
MUSIC: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836; harm. from *Hymns Ancient  
and Modern*, 1861; Trans. © 1961 World Library Publications,  
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# BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Rev. Paul Perez

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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.

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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, Music Director  
Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist  
Debra Cox, Office Administrator  
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent  
Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager  
Yvette Meadow and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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

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## 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)