



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

July 17, 2022

Sixth 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;

SOZ = Songs of Zion; WS=Worship & Song

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: May we land in our bodies and soften our spirits to meet the Living God in our midst.

ALL: The Holy Spirit is present within us, between us and beyond us.

ONE: Like a caring elder, She moves kindly and wisely.

ALL: Let us worship God, our comfort and our strength.

***OPENING HYMN**

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH 436

- 1. The voice of God is calling its summons in our day; Isaiah heard in Zion, and we now hear God say: “Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need? Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?**
- 2. “I hear my people crying in slum and mine and mill; no field or mart is silent, no city street is still. I see my people falling in darkness and despair. Whom shall I send to shatter the fetters which they bear?”**
- 3. We heed, O God your summons, and answer: Here are we! Send us upon your errand, let us your servants be. Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour; but you can use our weakness to magnify your power.**
- 4. From ease and plenty save us; from pride of place absolve; purge us of low desire; lift us to high resolve; take us and make us holy; teach us your will and way. Speak, and behold! we answer; command and we obey!**

WORDS: John Haynes Holmes, 1913, MUSIC: William Lloyd, 1840 CCL12815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

UNISON PRAYER

Faithful One, systems of oppression manipulate us into believing our dreams for liberation are far-fetched. But we live in a long lineage of prophets, elders, and accomplices who have been tilling the soil of Life Abundant. Holy Spirit, thank you for those who have been tending the garden of Revolutionary Love long before us; guide us with Wisdom as we pick up the trowel. For our spiritual ancestors are with us and our dreams of thriving are possible. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Come, let us be a resting place for each other’s woes, offering spaces of restoration and ease. Let us be a connecting place for each other’s creativity, offering to each other joy and play. Let us collect our shared resources for the day, offering each other compassion and mutuality. For together, we unfold the vibrant kingdom of God.

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. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Spirit of Christ, grant us sustained focus on what is life-giving so that restoration, joy and mutuality may flow in our lives and in our communities. According to our abilities, we offer each other gifts of money, relationship and labor that it may be so. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CENTERING HYMN** *If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers* (Tune UMH #408)

- 1. If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeing
breath.**
- 2. If we just dream of what could be And
do not build community, And do not
seek to change our ways, Our dreams
of change are false displays.**
- 3. If we just sing of doing good And don't
walk through our neighborhood to
learn its hope, to ease its pain, Our
talk of good is simply vain.**
- 4.. God, may our prayers and dreams and
songs Lead to a faith that takes on
wrongs – that works for peace and
justice, too. Then will our prayers
bring joy to you.**

Tune: Traditional English Melody, Text: Copyright ©2017 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All Rights Reserved. CCLI2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 52* (Inclusive Bible)

How can you boast about how corrupt you are, you tyrant? Even against God's beloved you forge wild lies all day long – your slanderous tongue is sharp as a razor! You love evil, not good; falsehood, not truth telling.

You enjoy cruel gossip and slanderous talk. So God will put you down to the ground forever, sweep you away, leave you ruined and homeless and uprooted from the land of the living! The righteous will look on, awestruck and they will laugh at your plight. "This is the one," they'll say, "who didn't seek refuge in God, but trusted in great wealth and grew strong by destroying others."

I am an green olive tree flourishing in God's house, for I trust in God's love forever and ever. I will praise you forever for what you have done; among your faithful I will put my trust in your Name, for it is good.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMNWhatever You Do*

(tune UMH #217)

1. **“Whatever you do to the least ones of these, I tell you in truth that you do unto me!” Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew that when we serve others, we also serve you.**
2. **When poor waiting children pray hunger will end, when those long forgotten cry out for a friend, when thirsty ones whisper, “O Lord, where are you?” we hear, in their longing that you’re calling, too.**
3. **In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise: we see you in people whom others despise. At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer and find, when we visit the sick, you are there.**
4. **When we reach to others in flood-stricken lands, we offer our hearts there, and offer our hands, we notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace, we see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.**
5. **“Lord, when did we see you?” Your teaching is clear that when we serve others, we’re serving you here. And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain, then out of the chaos, hope rises again.**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, ©2008 Music William J. Kirkpatrick ©1960 Oxford University Press . CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

With roots planted firmly in the Soil of Life and fierce dedication to Thriving, may our dreams for liberation never be uprooted. We are wildflowers, we are olive trees. We bloom bearing the image of the Holy. Amen.

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