



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany



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

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: To the church in Detroit, located on the corner of Woodward and Adams to make a difference to those sanctified in Christ Jesus saved to serve humbly and dependably, to those called to be holy, serving as living witnesses of God's transforming grace.

ALL: Let us raise our voices unashamedly rivaling heaven's angels to praise our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us lift every voice and sing to our Master and Marker.

(written by Kwasi I. Kena)

***OPENING HYMN**

We're Marching to Zion

Tune UMH #733

1. Come, we who love God's name and let our joys be known; together God's great love proclaim, together God's great love proclaim, and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. (Refrain)

3. God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glory sown; celestial fruits on earthly ground, celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope have grown from faith and hope have grown. (Refrain)

(Refrain) **We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching onward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.**

4. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets. Before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets or walk the golden streets.

(Refrain)

2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but we our thanks and praise will bring, but we our thanks and praise will bring; for love so deep and broad, for love so deep and broad.

(Refrain)

5. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're traveling through Emmanuel's ground, we're traveling through Emmanuel's ground, to greater worlds on high, to greater worlds on high. (Refrain)

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, we thank you for the significance of this month.

We lift up and thank you for our Black brothers and sisters who have shaped history.

We thank you for the opportunity to learn and reflect particularly at this time, here and now. We pray that the learning happening in schools, homes and workplaces will be meaningful and deep-rooted.

We pray for open hearts and minds, and spirits willing to learn and be transformed by you. May this month be a time of curiosity and sharing, conversations and celebrations, challenge and encouragement. God, help us to dig deeper, look closer and think bigger. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTHEM

Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name arr. Brazeal Dennard
Megan Mueller, Solo

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Love has shown you, dear human, what is good; and what does the Holy ask of you? But to do justice, and to love compassion and to walk open-heartedly with the Ways of life. Prophets, ancient and contemporary, invite us to trade dominance for the Way of Life. Friends, we gather our offerings this day that we may do justice and love compassion.

OFFERTORY

Siyahamba

Zulu Song

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless our acts of justice and compassion, that they may be deeply rooted in the soil of liberation – no surface level do-gooding, but focused efforts that up-end all systems of domination. No prisons, no labor of enslavement, no factory farms, no military complex, no gender-based violence – may we have the courage to use our gathered resources for flourishing upon flourishing. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

*CENTERING HYMN

Blowin' in the Wind

1. **How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man? Yes, 'n' how many seas must a white dove sail before she sleeps in the sand? Yes, 'n' how many times must the cannonballs fly before they're forever banned? The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind the answer is blowin' in the wind.**

2. **How many years can a mountain exist before it's washed to the sea? Yes, 'n' how many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free? Yes, 'n' how many times can a man turn his head pretending he just doesn't see. The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind the answer is blowin' in the wind.**

3. **How many times must a man look up before he can see the sky? Yes, 'n' how many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry? Yes, 'n' how many deaths will it take till he knows that too many people have died? The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind the answer is blowin' in the wind.**

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ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Daniel 3:1-18

The Message Translation

King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue, ninety feet high and nine feet thick. He set it up on the Dura plain in the province of Babylon. He then ordered all the important leaders in the province, everybody who was anybody, to the dedication ceremony of the statue. They all came for the dedication, all the important people, and took their places before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected.

A herald then proclaimed in a loud voice: "Attention, everyone! Every race, color, and creed, listen! When you hear the band strike up – all the trumpets and trombones, the tubas and baritones, the drums and cymbals – fall to your knees and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Anyone who does not kneel and worship shall be thrown immediately into a roaring fire."

The band started to play, a huge band equipped with all the musical instruments of Babylon, and everyone – every race, color and creed – fell to their knees and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Just then, some Babylonian fortunetellers stepped up and accused the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “Long live the king! You gave strict orders, O king, that when the big band started playing, everyone had to fall to their knees and worship the gold statue, and whoever did not go to their knees and worship it had to be pitched into a roaring furnace. Well, there are some Jews here – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – whom you have placed in high positions in the province of Babylon. These men are ignoring you, O king. They don’t respect your gods and they won’t worship the gold statue you set up.”

Furious King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought in. When the men were brought in, Nebuchadnezzar asked, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you don’t respect my gods and refuse to worship the gold statue that I have set up? I’m giving you a second chance – but from now on, when the big band strikes up, you must go to your knees and worship the statue I have made. If you don’t worship it, you will be pitched into a roaring furnace, no questions asked. Who is the god who can rescue you from my power?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, “Your threat means nothing to us. If you throw us in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you cook up, O king. But even if God doesn’t, it wouldn’t make a bit of difference, O king. We still wouldn’t serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

This is What Resistance Looks Like! Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

*CLOSING HYMN

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

1. Paul and Silas, bound in jail, they had no money to pay their bail keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. Paul and Silas began to shout, the jail door opened, and they walked out. Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

(Chorus)

(Chorus) **Hold on (hold on), Hold on (hold on) Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.**

2. Heard the voice of Jesus say, come unto me, I am the way, keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. When my way gets dark as night, I know the Lord will be my light, keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. (Chorus)

3. The only chain that we can stand is the chain of hand-in-hand keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. Got my hand on the freedom plow, wouldn’t take nothing for my journey now keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. (Chorus)

4. When I’m in heaven, gonna sing and shout, nobody there to put me out keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. I know my robe’s gonna fit me well, I tried it on at the gates of Hell, keep your eyes on the prize, hold on (Chorus)

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BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

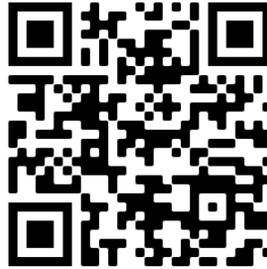
*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Go forth in comfort, for the Holy accompanies us in our heartbreak for the world.

Go forth in courage, for the presence of fear does not mean the absence of Love.

Go forth emboldened, co-creating communities where the barriers to thriving melt away. Amen.



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**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Maggie Reese, Interim Music Director & Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent & Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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)