



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent: *Faithful Lent - Alms Giving*

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

Bobbi Thompson

The prelude and introit are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: Before thrones of power and through seasons of despair,

ALL: the presence of God nurtures life among us.

ONE: Through collective imagination and practices of repair...

ALL: By building new patterns of mutuality and justice...

ONE: Each time we trade individual gain for collective solidarity...

ALL: We encounter the eternal life of God - our beginning and our end.

ONE: There is no need to wait for the blessings of heaven. They already dwell among us.

ALL: Thanks be to God, who lifts the veil and makes known the glory of love.

***OPENING HYMN**

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH #428

- 1. For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords; to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.**
- 2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, fear will die and hope increase.**
- 3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned; pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.**
- 4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.**

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1965; MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907; Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

All God's Children by Baker Lawrence.

Elle Sutorka, Solo
Central Children's Choir

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Soon-Ah Will Be Done by William Dawson

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 (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Beloved One, you came to dwell among us that we would all come to know life abundant. As we bring our offerings, we pray that we may confront the systems and powers that keep life from flourishing. Refusing to settle for evil's justification of what is, bless our efforts to live differently and dream deeper of the possibilities among us. Amen.

LEGACY PARTNER INTERVIEW – Michigan Welfare Rights Organization
Maureen Taylor & Sylvia Orduño

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

I Timothy 6: 9-10

Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction. The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***SCRIPTURE**

John 12: 20-33

Among those who had come up to worship at the Passover festival were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put forth this request: "Please, we would like to see Jesus," Philip went to tell Andrew, and together the two went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied, "Now the hour has come for the Chosen One to be glorified.

The truth of the matter is, unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

If you love your life, you'll lose it; if you hate your life in this world you'll keep it for eternal life.

Anyone who wants to work for me must follow in my footsteps, and wherever I am, my worker will be there too. Anyone who works for me will be honored by Abba God.

Now my soul is troubled. What will I say: 'Abba, save me from this hour?' But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Abba, glorify your name!"

A voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowds that stood nearby heard this and said it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking."

Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

"Sentence is now being passed on this world; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from this earth, I will draw all people to myself."

By these words Jesus indicated the kind of death he would die.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Faithful Lent - Alms Giving

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

Together We Serve

TFWS #2175

- 1. Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.**
- 2. We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.**
- 3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**
- 4. Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.**

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Though systems that use and abuse, seduce and exploit, make promises of profit and prosperity, they only leave the world wanting and wounded. Calling us to live otherwise, to lay down our loyalties to what deadens and destroys, God invites us into a life of true abundance. Where all have what they need, no excess is hoarded and there is plenty of rest. This is deliverance. This is salvation. The Spirit sends us to seek and to build until it is so.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson

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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

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, 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 Waawiyataanong (“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)