



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 19, 2021
17th 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

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: Beloveds, let us gather in the presence of God.

ALL: When the last is made first, God is with us.

ONE: Choosing collaboration over competition, service over success, community over individualism.

ALL: We seek the way of Christ.

ONE: Looking in unexpected places, learning from children, listening to those the world calls “the least.”

ALL: God, we welcome you in our midst.

***OPENING HYMN**

Jesu, Jesu

UMH #432

(Refrain) **Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we
have from you.**

**4. Loving puts us on our knees, serving as
though we are slaves, this is the way we
should live with you. *(Refrain)***

**1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently
washes their feet, Master who acts as a
slave to them. *(Refrain)***

**5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently
washing their feet, this is the way we
should love with you. *(Refrain)***

**2. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors
are black and white, neighbors are
near and far away. *(Refrain)***

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969; MUSIC: Ghana fold song; adapt. By Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988; © 1969 and 1989 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI2815228

**3. These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love, all
these are neighbors to us and you.
*(Refrain)***

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God, just as you have welcomed the parts of us that we have been taught to hide, so you ask us to welcome the people who are hidden away by the world's judgment. Help us to open our eyes, our hearts, and our lives to those who are given little or no honor in our communities. Make us a place of refuge for those who are not welcome elsewhere that we might all grow in knowledge and love of you and your people. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The way of discipleship is a way of reordering the world – of turning upside down everything that belittles and demeans any of God's creatures or creations, no matter how small, how vulnerable, how insignificant in our eyes. In commitment to building a Sacred community where the presence of God is honored within all, may we bring our gifts and offerings.

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

Mother of us all, we pray for the children here in our community and across the globe who are suffering this day. We pray especially for those who are caught up in systems of institutional evil and injustice, those who are ill treated by their families and those who the church and its leaders are doing harm. Receive our offerings and make us advocates, friends and family to the young and vulnerable. May your Spirit guide us in service to them. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

Jesus Loves Me

UMH #191

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
(Refrain)

3. Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
(Refrain)

(Refrain) Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Words: St. 1 Anna B. Warner, 1860; Sts. 2-3 David Rutherford McGuire; trans.: Cherokee, Robert Bushyhead, 1962; German, *Psalter und Harfe*, 1876; Japanese phonetic transcription, Mas Kawashina, 1988; Spanish, *Himnario Metodista*, 1968; MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1862; Cherokee phonetic transcription © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; Japanese phonetic transcription © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI2815228

2. Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying “Let them come to me.” (Refrain)

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:30-37

The Inclusive Bible

They left that district and began a journey through Galilee, but Jesus did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching the disciples along these lines: “The promised One is going to be delivered into the hands of others and will be put to death, but three days later, this One will rise again.” Though they failed to understand these words, they were afraid to question him.

They returned home to Capernaum. Once they were inside the house, Jesus began to ask them, “What were you discussing on the way home?” At this they fell silent, for on the way they had been arguing about who among them was the most important. So Jesus sat down and called the Twelve over and said, “If any of you wants to be first, you must be the last one of all and at the service of all.”

Then Jesus brought a little child into their midst and, putting his arm around the child, said to them, “Whoever welcomes a child such as this for my sake welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the One who sent me.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN*Christ, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

UMH #581

1. Christ, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Christ, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.
3. As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving your abundant life to share.
4. Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give, that your servants, Christ, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt. MUSIC: Attr. To B. F. White, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978; Words © 1961 Oxford University Press; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ONE: As we depart from this place, may we do so with eyes and ears and hearts open to welcoming God by deliberately practicing hospitality to those given no honor in our communities.

ALL: We are sent in service to your people, O God!

ONE: In the company of the One who modeled this love for us, go in peace. Amen.

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