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Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867



December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WHOLE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

INTRODUCTION TO THE PAGEANT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

UMH #234

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O Come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels; (Refrain)

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest. (Refrain)

(Refrain) **O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

WORDS: John F. Wade, ca. 1743; trans. By Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others; MUSIC: John F. Wade, ca. 1743; harm. from *Collections of Motts or Antipons*, 1972; CCLI 2815228

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest. This one will be called Wonderful Counselor; the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace. His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and for evermore. The zeal of our God will do this.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings favored one! God is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, The Holy spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the six month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy spirit. Her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet:

"Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of God commanded him, he took Mary as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had born a son, and he named him Jesus.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868; MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868; CCLI 2815228

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN*Silent Night*

UMH #239

(Mary, Joseph, and baby make their way up front and take their places.)

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. By John F. Young; st. 4 trans. Anon.; MUSIC Franz Gruber, 1818; CCLI 2815228

ANTHEM*Away in a Manger*

Children & Youth of Central UMC

HYMN*The First Noel*

UMH #245

(Congregational and child shepherds are invited to come forward and gather around Mary, Joseph, and the baby during the hymn.)

1. The First Noel, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was do deep. (Refrain)

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

WORDS: Trad. English carol; MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871; CCLI 2815228

ANGEL CHORUS ANTHEM*Angel Tidings by John Rutter**(The star and child angels are invited to come forward as the angel chorus sings.)***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING****OFFERTORY HYMN***We Three Kings*

UMH #254

(Child and congregational Magi are invited to come forward and gather around Mary, Joseph, and the baby. All are invited to bring forward their Offering during the hymn.)

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. (Refrain)

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (Refrain)

(Refrain) **O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

WORDS: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857; MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857; CCLI 2815228

HYMN

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

UMH #224

(Congregational townspeople stand and move as near Mary, Joseph, and the baby as they can.)

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart
and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we
say: news, news! Jesus Christ is born
today! OX and ass before him bow and he
is in the manger now. Christ is born today,
Christ is born today.**

WORDS: 14th cent. Latin; trans. By John Mason Neale, 1855; MUSIC: German
melody; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988; Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist
Publishing House; CCLI2815228

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH# 246

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King; let every
heart prepare him room, and heaven
and nature sing, and heaven and
nature sing, and heaven, and heaven,
and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ; while fields
and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the
sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the
sounding joy.**

- 3. No more let sins and sorrow grow, nor
thorns infest the ground; he comes to
make his blessings flow far as the curse
is found, far as the curse is found, far
as, far as, the curse is found.**
- 4. He rules the world with truth and
grace, and makes the nations prove the
glories of his righteousness, and
wonders of his love, and wonders of his
love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1719; MUSIC: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

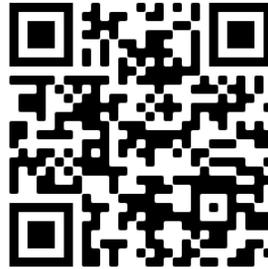
Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation,
we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation,
God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."
May it be so. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World, The First Noel

Kristi Crago, Isaiah Thomason-Redus
Lydia Thomason-Redus, French Horns



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. 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 livestreamed 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)