



# **Central United Methodist Church**

## ***A Reconciling Congregation***

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

May 4, 2025

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## **ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLAND HERITAGE MONTH**

### **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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

## **ACTS OF WELCOME**

### **PRELUDE**

Brandon Reeves & Augustus Williamson

*The Prelude and the Postlude are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.*

### **INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to the first Sunday of our Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month worship series. Each Sunday we will focus on an Asian American Pacific Islander theologian. Today we are guided by the theology of the Rev. Dr. John Thatamanil, a native of India, who calls us to a capacious Christianity.

Thatamanil invites us to embrace hospitality to other religious and wisdom traditions as a practice of love, humility, courage, and mutual growth.

And so we worship today, in the midst of the Easter season, as a people of resurrection, as followers of a capacious Christ who is alive.

Let us rise to sing the Easter song of hope, justice, and joy.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Christ Is Alive*, v. 1, 4 & 5

UMH #318

**1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.**

**4. In every insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, though ever crucified**

**5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and all creation ring with joy,  
with justice, love, and praise.**

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1986, alt. MUSIC: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789; Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God of infinite wisdom, you call us beyond the comfort of the known  
and into holy conversations across difference. May we find you not only in our  
tradition, but in the voices, questions, and truths of others. Open us to your  
expansive love and lead us into deeper hospitality. Amen.**

**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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

Augustus Williamson

# ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## ANTHEM

*Total Praise* by Richard Smallwood

## \*SCRIPTURE

*Acts 9: 1-6*

Meanwhile Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. He had gone up to the high priest and asked for letters, address to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find, both women and men.

As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## MESSAGE

*AAPL Heritage Month*: John Thatamanil

Rev. Paul Perez

## ACTS OF SHARING

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Spirituals Medley*, arr. by Jacqueline Hairston

Roderick Reese, Bass

## DOXOLOGY

### In Hawaiian:

Ho'onani i ka Makua mau,

Ke Keiki me ka 'Uhane Nō,

Ke Akua mau ho'omaika'i pū

Ko kēiā ao, ko kēlā ao. Amene.

### In English:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Source: *Based on scripture from Ephesians 1:3, the doxology is a way of praising God for our blessings. The doxology is typically sung for grace before meals.*

`Ukulele Kani E – 2014

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(adapted from a World Communion Sunday Liturgy from Canada, by Richard Blott)

ONE: God is with you.

**ALL: And with your spirit.**

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift our hearts to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

ONE: We do give you thanks, and we do praise you, God of all creation. From before there was a beginning, until after there is an end, you were and are and always will be. All creation is animate – alive –in you, and with you, and beside you. For everything that is, came into being through you. In praise and thanksgiving, with leaves that whisper, brooks that babble, coyotes that yip, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the squirmers and the squiggle's – even the stars above, we join in this unending hymn of praise ...

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.**

ONE: For we, who follow the Way of Jesus, this is a day we remember all who gather to eat the bread and drink from the cup. We come together to re-member, that we are Christ's people, all around the world. On the night before he was taken to his death, Jesus gathered with his followers, he took bread, gave thanks to you, God of all creation, and offered it to those gathered at the table,

**ALL: Take this and eat.**

**This is my life, given for you.**

**Each time you eat it, remember me.**

ONE: After the meal was over,  
he took a cup of wine, and gave thanks to you,  
God of all love.

He offered it to those gathered at the table,

**ALL: Take this and drink.**

**This is my promise, is my love,  
poured out for you.**

**Each time you drink it, remember me.**

ONE: So we eat, we drink, and we remember.  
We eat, we drink, and we remember.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**We celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present,  
in these gifts, and in us,**

**that they – and we – can be Christ's gifts to the world. Amen**

## SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

ONE: Mahatma Ghandi is quoted as saying, “There are so many hungry people in the world that God could only come into the world in the form of food.” Jesus Christ, the bread of life!

**ALL: Amen!**

ONE: Jesus Christ, the cup of love.

**ALL: Amen!**

ONE: The gifts of God, for all God’s people!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**ALL: For the bread we have eaten, for the drink we have tasted,  
for the Spirit in which we live, we thank you, God of all love!  
May this burst of flavor, be on our lips and in our hearts,  
so we can share your love, with your world. Alleluia! Amen!**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Creator of the Intertwined*  
Creator of the intertwined,  
you made each soul unique:  
each one with ears to hear faith’s call,  
each one with voice to speak.  
Each worships where the call is heard—  
in forest, temple, dome,  
on mountain top, in upper room—  
the soul must find a home.

The song of peace best sung by all:  
strength born of unity.

In harmony we celebrate  
your gift: diversity.  
Can we not sing each other’s songs?  
Speak unfamiliar prayer?  
Rejoicing in the bounty of  
the differences we share?

In evil’s wake we all are hurt;  
when prick’d all humans bleed.  
With common wounds and shared despair,  
we seek the balm we need.  
We do not ask before we reach  
to offer our embrace.

We do not ask, “How do you pray?”  
We reach with arms of grace.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION: KINGSFOLD (I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say)

Words: Jacque B. Jones, 1950– ; Music: English melody ; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958; Words © 2004 GIA Publications, Inc.  
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## **BENEDICTION**

### **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH**

### **POSTLUDE**

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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 & Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator & Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building Manager

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This service is live streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425

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### **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)