



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 22nd, 2021
13th 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

Daniel Dillingham

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

ALL: The refreshing springs of God's love cleans and restores us.

ONE: There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

ALL: The least and the lost; those without homes or hope are always welcome in God's house.

ONE: Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

ALL: Praise to God who heals and sends us forth to serve. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

UMH #103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

3. Your life is life giving – to both great and small; in all life you're living, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers, then wither and perish – but naught dims your powers.

2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might; your justice like mountains high soaring above, your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

4. So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light, your angels adore you, all veiling their sight; all praise we now render as your angels do: in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

THE DANGEROUS JOURNEY: A LITANY ABOUT MIGRATION

ONE: God, our Loving Parent and Creator of all, your children cry out to you.

ALL: Those who pass through the waters, those who struggle across the land – God be with them!

ONE: God, you carried the Israelites through the heart of the sea.

ALL: God, you escorted them across dry land with your fiery presence. God has been with us!

ONE: Remember when you led your people through the wilderness of Sinai.

ALL: Recall when you preserved Elijah as he fled through the desert. God be present to save!

ONE: As Boaz received Ruth and Naomi and provided sustenance for them.

ALL: As Boaz welcomed the foreigner and recognized her as kin. God, train us to love!

ONE: God, your Word reminds us continually: We were strangers in a foreign land.

ALL: God, help us to have radical empathy for those who are unwelcomed. God, teach us to welcome!

ONE: God, you sent Jesus who was not of the world.

ALL: To rescue a dying creation and to teach us how to live. Christ, Hosanna, save us!

ONE: Jesus: the way, truth and life, help us to walk in your ways.

ALL: You told us when we love the stranger we are, in fact, loving you. God, help us to love the stranger, our neighbor!

ONE: God, create in us a compulsion not to stand by.

ALL: God, stir us up to holy action lest the blood of our neighbor be shed. For the glory of your name and the love of our siblings in Christ. Amen.

(From the book “Rally – Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Spencer

***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

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN*O God, You Give Us Neighbors*

(Tune UMH #545)

1. O God, you give us neighbors for whom your love abounds. They've come here seeking refuge; they work here in our towns. Their children go to school here; they come to church and pray. O God, we grieve when neighbors are being sent away.
2. O God, you give us neighbors in this world that divides. We see them at the border; they're struggling for their lives. They're hurting by the roadside, and by the river too. You call us to show mercy to neighbors loved by you.
3. O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see our common fears and longings, our shared humanity. You call us all to listen to burdens they have known, to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.
4. O God, you give us neighbors; and now, what must we do? This question asked of Jesus is one we ask anew. May we not make excuses and choose to walk on by these neighbors fleeing violence – some sent back now to die.
5. God, may we work for justice for those who live in fear; may we show Christ's compassion, and pray and persevere – and by your Holy Spirit, in all we do and say, may we stand up for neighbors now being sent away.

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864; Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. CCLI2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON** *1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43*The Inclusive Bible
Helen Monroe

Then Solomon stood before the altar of God in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, with hands spread out to heaven and said, "God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above and on the earth below – keeping your Covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly to be faithful to you with all their hearts. You kept your promise to your servant David; by your deeds today, you fulfill what you said to David in words.

Therefore, God of Israel, keep your promise to your servant David, when you said, 'You will never lack for a person to sit before me on the judgment seat of Israel, if only your successors are careful how they behave, walking before me as you yourself did.' O God of Israel, may the promise you made to your attendant David come true!

"But can God really dwell on earth? Heaven itself, the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this Temple I have built! Hear the prayer and the plea for mercy of your servant, my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant makes in your presence today. May your eyes watch over this Temple day and night, over the place where you said, 'My Name shall be there!' Hear the prayer your servant offers in this place.

“Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel as they pray in this place. From heaven where you dwell, hear; and as you hear forgive.

“And the foreigners as well, those who do not belong to your people Israel, if they come from a distant country for the sake of your Name – for they will hear of your Name, of your mighty hand and outstretched arm – if they come and worship in this Temple, then hear from heaven where your home is, and do whatever the foreigners ask of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your Name and revere you, as do your people Israel, and may know that this house I built bears your Name.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Open Door Policy

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

VIDEO

You Are Welcome Here

Refugees International

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJJcZJoEoDY>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Central United Methodist Church

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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

Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists