



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

July 2, 2023

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;
W&S = Worship & Song

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Paul Perez, (enfleshed)

ONE: We enter this space rooted in our Sacred Worth—

ALL: Belovedness blooming in our hearts like wildflowers.

ONE: The Living God does not shame us for who we are—

ALL: They are abundantly gracious and compassionate.

ONE: We enter this space trusting the work of liberation—

ALL: Our efforts mingle and swell with the work of others.

ONE: The Living God takes delight in us—

ALL: Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN**

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

UMH #400 (v. 1&3)

**1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams
of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of
loudest praise. Teach me some melodious
sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!**

**3. O to grace how great a debtor daily
I'm constrained to be! Let that grace
now, like a fetter, bind my wandering
heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I
feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it
for thy courts above.**

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758; MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music; Part Second*, 1813; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

OFFERTORY

Du Bist Die Ruh, Franz Schubert

Jesse Ward

***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

Rev. Paul Perez, (enfleshed)

**When we desire to shift our lives towards wellness, may we be supported. When we work
to undo patterns of harm, may we be resourced. When shame tells us that repair is a pipe
dream, may community reach out a hand of kind relationship. We dedicate our offerings to
these dreams. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN**

There is a Balm in Gilead

UMH #375 (v. 1&2)

(Refrain) **There is a balm in Gilead to
make the wounded whole; There is a balm
in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.**

**2. Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus
is our friend, And if you look for
knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.
*(Refrain)***

**1. Sometimes I feel discouraged and
think my work's in vain. But then the
Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
*(Refrain)***

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt.
and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986; Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United
Methodist Publishing House; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (Inclusive Bible)

What comparison can I make with this generation? They are like children shouting to others as they sit in the marketplace, ‘We piped you a tune, but you wouldn’t dance. We sang you a dirge, but you wouldn’t mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘‘He is possessed.’’ The Chose One comes, eating and drinking, and they say, ‘‘This one is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’’ Wisdom will be vindicated by her own actions.’’

Then Jesus prayed, ‘‘Abba God, Creator of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the youngest children. Yes, Abba, everything is as you want it to be.’’

‘‘Everything has been handed over to me

By Abba God.

No one knows the Only Begotten

except Abba God,

and no one knows Abba God

except the Only Begotten—

and those to whom the Only Begotten

wants to give that revelation.

Come to me,

all you who labor and carry heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon your shoulders

and learn from me,

for I am gentle and humble of heart.

Here you will find rest for your souls,

for my yoke is easy

and my burden is light.’’

MESSAGE

Rest as Resistance

Rev. Paul Perez

CLOSING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH #519

1. **Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of a faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.**
2. **Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our people sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.**
3. **God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way, thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.**

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921; © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co.; renewed, CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Paul Perez, (enfleshed)

Go forth blooming like the wildflowers— For you are delighted in, you are beloved, and you are inherently worthy. May your blooming invite others into their own flourishing in their own time, for God celebrates the garden of our wild thriving. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



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.

Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422
www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Margaret Reese, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadows, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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 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)