



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

July 30, 2023

7th 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;
W&S = Worship & Song

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson
Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from enfleshed)

ONE: Let us come together rejoicing.

ALL: For nothing can separate us from the love of God.

ONE: Not life nor death.

ALL: Not prejudice nor power.

ONE: Not our grief nor our fears.

ALL: Not the wrongs we have done, nor the wrongs done against us.

ONE: The kin-dom of God is so close and love comes to us still.

ALL: Let every heart be lifted!

***OPENING HYMN**

Marching to Zion

UMH #733

1. Come, we that love God, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. *(Refrain)*

3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high, fairer worlds on high. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707; refrain by Robert Lowry, 1867; MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1867; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENT

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Grosser Herr O Starker Konig* by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Jesse Ward

German text

Großer Herr, o starker König,
Liebster Heiland, o wie wenig
Achtest du der Erden Pracht!
Der die ganze Welt erhält,
Ihre Pracht und Zier erschaffen,
Muß in harten Krippen schlafen.

English translation

Great Lord, o powerful King,
dearest Savior, o how little
you care about the glories of the earth!
He who sustains the entire world,
who created its magnificence and beauty,
must sleep in a harsh manger.

translation © Pamela Dellal, courtesy Emmanuel Music Inc.

***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 (enfleshed)

Holy One, we bring our gifts to you with thanks. Though the gap between what we know and what we hope for can feel like a chasm that cannot be bridged, you renew our faith. Do not let us dismiss the small wonders of love that heal and transform. Help us to perceive the ordinary miracles of life that surround us, that we may be eager participants in the everyday grace of your kin-dom. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CENTERING HYMN

Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song

UMH #544

1. Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight, like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

3. With the healing of division, with the cease-less voice of prayer, with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

2. To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine, to the church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1981; MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1968; Words ©1982 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE (Please Stand)

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 Inclusive Bible

Jesus presented another parable to the crowds: "The reign of heaven is like the mustard seed which a farmer sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all—it becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come to perch in its branches."

Jesus offered them still another parable: "The reign of heaven is like the yeast a baker took and mixed in with three measures of flour until it was leavened all through."

"The reign of heaven is like a buried treasure found in a field. The ones who discovered it hid it again, and rejoicing at the discovery, went and sold all their possessions and bought that field.

"Or again, the reign of heaven is like a merchant's search for fine pearls. When one pearl of great value was found, the merchant went back and sold everything else and bought it.

"Or again, the reign of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collected all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishers hauled it ashore. Then, sitting down, they collected the good ones in a basket and threw away those that were of no use. This is how it will be at the end of time. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the just and throw the wicked into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?"

"^Yes," they answered.

To this Jesus replied, "Every religious scholar who has become a student of the reign of heaven is like the head of a household who can bring from the storeroom both the new and the old."

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

A Kin-dom Ablaze?

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

I'm Goin'a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing UMH#333

1. I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing, I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing, I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of God.

3. I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout, I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout, I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout, and obey the Spirit of God.

2. I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray, I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray, I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray, and obey the Spirit of God.

4. I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing, I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing, I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of God.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1986; Adapt. © 189 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed)

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Paul Perez

Beloveds, we were made to live out the dreams of God. Each of us, together. Through our choices, our hopes, our communities. God has given us the capacity to embody Divine hospitality. To practice radical love. To be brave together and take risks on doing things differently. So let us depart from one another with willing hearts, praying thy kin-dom come, they will be done.

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
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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, Receptionist

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)