



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

March 2, 2025

Eighth Sunday After Epiphany

Transfiguration Sunday

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 PRAISE

PRELUDE

Brandon Reeves & Augustus Williamson

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: Come and follow Christ to the places where the heavens and earth meet.

ALL: **The Holy is so near.**

ONE: When we are weary or afraid, when we question the path ahead,

ALL: **Christ reveals the Sacred with us.**

ONE: We never go alone. As close as our own breath,

ALL: **God is here.**

***OPENING HYMN:**

Come Let Us Dream

W&S #3157

1. Come, let us dream God's dream again.

**Come, one and all, let us ascend
the mountaintop where those of old
saw God's new day on earth unfold.**

**3. When hatred ends and war shall cease,
so all may dwell in deepest peace, then
be assured the time is near
when perfect love casts out all fear.**

**4. But know the cost of claiming sight
of God's new day, of wrongs made right,
for some have paid the highest price,
their lives for us, a sacrifice.**

**5. Prophets are scorned in their own lands
and martyrs slain by righteous hands;
though dreamers die, the dream will live,
for we have yet our lives to give.**

WORDS: John Middleton; MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. by Dean McIntyre; Words © 2004 John Middleton;
harm. © 2005 The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church; CCLI 2815228

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

Brandon Reeves and Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

All Things New by Elaine Hagenberg

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:28-36,

About eight days after saying this, Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up onto a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance and the clothes he wore became dazzlingly white. Suddenly two people were there talking with Jesus— Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and spoke of the prophecy that Jesus was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

Peter and the others had already fallen into a deep sleep, but awakening, they saw Jesus' glory—and the two people who were standing next to him. When the two were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here! Let's set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!" Peter didn't really know what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and the disciples grew fearful as the others entered it. Then from the cloud came a voice which said, "This is my Own, my Chosen One. Listen to him!"

When the voice finished speaking, they saw no one but Jesus standing there. The disciples kept quiet, telling nothing of what they had seen at that time to anyone.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Come and Take Your Place Among the Prophets!

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

ACTS OF SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Friends, we never know what the days ahead will bring. We may be moving into seasons of struggle or of release, seasons of blessing or of loss. But however our path may be unfolding, we do know this: we do not go alone. When we journey together, the Presence of God is never far. In a spirit of our commitment to this collective journey with Christ, let us bring our offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

Hymn of Promise arr. by Natalie Sleeth

***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.**

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: The Holy One be with you.

ALL: And also, with you

ONE: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God

ONE: Let us give thanks to God who takes risks for love

ALL: For the courage of the Holy that lives in us, we give thanks

ONE: Throughout history, O God, we have struggled to claim the power you have given us. Destructive forces within and around us make us question your call upon our lives. We turn ourselves over, in ways ordinary and remarkable, to what is. To what has been. To the familiar.

But you have created us for so much more. In Jesus, we saw a life lived in all its potential. In all its Sacred power. Life that is abundant. Love that was creative, and fervent for justice.

We saw, too, the consequences of living as if the Kin-dom were close.

And so we wonder.

If we live with such courage, what will we lose?

In proclaiming truths that confront unjust power, do we stand a chance of survival?

How will it go for us, if we are willing to risk everything for love?

You have never promised us safety, but you have shown us what is possible.

The Spirit brings new life even to places of death.

Jesus, knowing the dangers ahead, still did not cave to the threats of power or give in to the temptations of the popular.

There was nothing he would trade for his love of the suffering and betrayed, not even his own life.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around table with his companions. His friends. His beloveds in the struggle. Even the one who would turn him over to the cross.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to all of them and said,

ALL: “This is my body which is given for you. Take, eat, and remember me.”

ONE: After the supper, he did the same with the cup, saying,

ALL: “This is a symbol of the new covenant. Drink in remembrance of me.”

ONE: In remembering the life of Jesus, we remember what he taught us about ourselves – about the power God has given us. We remember that God enfleshed is Good News that feeds, that protects, that heals, and delivers. We remember the words he spoke: “whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these.”

And so we pray, pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God. Through these gifts, fill our hearts with courage to believe the Kin-dom is within us, to live boldly in pursuit of love that liberates, and to follow the Wisdom that leads from the margins.

Blessed be this meal of hope.

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we give you thanks! For this meal that nourishes us in body and spirit. For a taste of your dreams. For the earth that gifts us these resources. And for these bodies of ours through which you take on flesh. May our gratitude produce faithfulness and our faithfulness produce justice. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Stand in Awe

W&S #3162

Stand in awe of the one who hears the cry of the poor.

Stand in awe of the one who will provide.

**Stand in awe of the one who hears the cry of the poor,
for they shall eat and be satisfied.**

(Sing three times)

WORDS: Psalm 22:22-30, adapt. by Bret Hesla; MUSIC: Bret Hesla; © 20069 Augsburg Fortress; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

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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

Guest Choral Director, Jennifer Peugoske

Margaret Reese, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

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)