



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822 — Sanctuary completed 1867

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

## 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; WS=Worship & Song

**PRELUDE**

Bobbi Thompson

**INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When we hunger for justice and thirst for the liberation of all life...when we want for collective flourishing with the entirety of your spirit...

**ALL: Blessed are we, for our longings will birth the dreams of God.**

ONE: When we weep with the world's aches, when we find ourselves filled with sorrow because of what is cruel, what is lost, what is forgotten...

**ALL: Blessed are we, for God weeps through us.**

ONE: When we are punished socially or economically for our refusal to go with the the flow of normalized evil, when our truth-telling or practices of love leave us isolated or condemned...

**ALL: Blessed are we, for we offer a glimpse of the Kindom of God.**

ONE: God draws near wherever hearts are open.

**ALL: Love, come and shape our understanding!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*All Who Hunger*

TFWS #2126

**1. All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wondering. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**2. All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**3. All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and and see that God is good.**

WORDS: Sylvia G. Dunstan; MUSIC: William Moore; Words © 1991  
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## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**Holy One, Your Spirit moves in provocative ways. Though evil seeks false peace, you shake things up. You turn things upside down. You leave us surprised and inspired. When we are confronted by the radical nature of your love, do not let us push you away or remain unchanged. May we embrace discomfort with joy, that we might be friends of justice and companions to peace. Amen.**

### **ANTHEM**

Spirituals Medley arr. Jacqueline Hairston

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Friends, we gather together as disciples for Christ for the work of love. Here, we believe in love as the centerpiece of our faith. We practice love. We long for love that restores the earth and mends the wrongs of injustice. We trust in love. And, we are embraced by love. In this spirit, we bring what we have together, that love may be multiplied between us and beyond us.

## OFFERTORY

*Amazing Grace*  
Text, John Newton. arr. John Coates Jr.

Laura Berger, Solo

## \*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.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Sacred Solidarity, your love is not neutral. It corrects the imbalances of evil and restores pathways to collective flourishing. Your grace invites all to come and join in a holy uprising of people who dream of a better way. For all you make possible among us, we bring our gifts with thanks. Amen.**

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## \*CENTERING HYMN

*Blest Are They*

TFWS #2155

**1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they full of sorrow, they shall be consoled. *(Refrain)***

*(Refrain)* **Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.**

**2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *(Refrain)***

**3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God! *(Refrain)***

**4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. *(Refrain)***

**5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom. Shine for all to see. *(Refrain)***

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*GOSPEL LESSON

*Matthew 5:1-12*

First Nations Version

When Jesus saw the great crowd, he went back up into the mountainside and sat down to teach the people. His followers came to him there, so he took a deep breath, opened his mouth and began to share his wisdom with them and teach them how to see Creator's good road.

“Creator's blessing rests on the poor, the ones with broken spirits. The good road from above is theirs to walk. Creator's blessing rests on the ones who walk a trail of tears, for God will wipe the tears from their eyes and comfort them.

“Creator's blessing rests on the ones who walk softly and in a humble manner. The earth, land, and sky will welcome them and always be their home. Creator's blessing rests on the ones who hunger and thirst for wrongs to be made right again. They will eat and drink until they are full.

“Creator's blessing rests on the ones who are merciful and kind to others. Their kindness will find its way back to them – full circle. Creator's blessing rests on the pure of heart. They are the ones who will see the Great Spirit.

Creator's blessing rests on the ones who make peace. It will be said of them, “They are the children of the Great Spirit!” Creator's blessing rests on the ones who are hunted down and mistreated for doing what is right, for they are walking the good road from above.

“Others will lie about you, speak against you, and look down on you with scorn and contempt, all because you walk the road with me. This is a sign that Creator's blessing is resting on you. So let your hearts be glad and jump for joy, for you will be honored in the spirit-world above. You are like the prophets of old, who were treated in the same way by your ancestors.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE**

*Be Different!*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Christ's Partners All Are We*

(Tune UMH #158)

1. **Christ's partners all are we, Alleluia!  
Amen! In mission joyfully. Alleluia!  
Amen! We dare not stand alone,  
offering for bread a stone, Safe-  
guarding but our own. Alleluia!  
Amen!**
2. **Sing! Stewards of God's grace,  
Alleluia! Amen! Love conquers time  
and space. Alleluia! Amen! Gladly  
receive and give strength that we all  
may live; wrongs, each to each,  
forgive. Alleluia! Amen!**
3. **Friends joining hand in hand, Alleluia!  
Amen! Reach out from land to land.  
Alleluia! Amen! Our circle comes full  
round. Sing we with lively sound.  
Feet, dancing, tap the ground.  
Alleluia! Amen!**
4. **God's people celebrate, Alleluia!  
Amen! For our Lord God is great.  
Alleluia! Amen! Now serve and teach  
and heal, God's justice to make real.  
All praise with joyful zeal. Alleluia!  
Amen!**

MUSIC: Trad. Melody; arr. by Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1963; Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press; CCL12815228

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

To do justice...

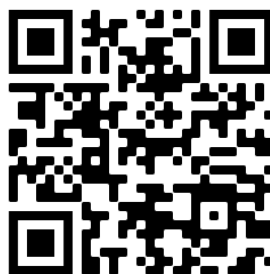
To practice kindness...

To journey in life attuned to God...

This is what Love desires of us.

May it be so among us as the Spirit leads us from here with peace. Amen.

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**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.**

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

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus  
Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries  
Maggie Reese, Interim Music Director  
Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist  
Debra Cox, Office Administrator  
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent  
Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance  
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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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)