



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

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 Waawiyataanong (“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)

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: May we find courage here –

ALL: courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.

ONE: May we find hope here –

ALL: hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.

ONE: May we find truth here –

ALL: truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.

ONE: May we find all that we seek.

ALL: And in our seeking, may we know God. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing adapted from UMH #57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great
Redeemer’s praise, the glories ever
echoing the triumphs of God’s grace!

3. Jesus! the name that calms our fears, that
bids our sorrows cease is music in the
sinner’s ears is life, and health and peace!

2. My gracious Savior and my God, assist
me to proclaim, to spread through all the
earth abroad the honors of your name.

4. Glory to God and love and praise be ever,
ever given by all the saints in every age
the church in earth and heaven.

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: There are a few things as powerful as a group of people that admits they are not perfect, and asks for grace as they grow. Imagine what our world might be like if every institution had such a weekly rhythm?

Friends, we can light the way. Let us be brave in our truth-telling and honest in our confession. For we will always be met by grace. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Jesus of Nazareth, we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring: yes, we are Christian, yes, we believe, yes, this faith has changed me. We are so afraid of offending others or embarrassing ourselves that we have established rules: no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics, no faith with strangers. Forgive us for whispering when we could be singing. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative. We want to be brave. We want to pour out perfume over your feet. These things we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Family of faith, hear this good news: Even in our silence,

ALL: God loves us.

ONE: Even in our fear or shame,

ALL: God chooses us.

ONE: Even when we sin,

ALL: God wraps us in grace.

ONE: You are free – to be bold, to be brazen, to be exactly who God called you to be.

ALL: Thanks be to God, Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

There are ways to show up for one another that are beyond words – through actions of solidarity, through soulful presence, through meeting each other's needs of rest and nourishment. Come, let us gather our offerings in the Spirit of Love that is beyond words. I invite you to the offering.

OFFERTORY

***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**

Jesus, our teacher, you relished the extravagant blessing you received from your beloved, Mary. As we learn from you how to act in solidarity, may we also learn from you how to be the recipient of blessings. In your footsteps, we dedicate our offerings to relationships and to reciprocity. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

***CENTERING HYMN**

Give Me Jesus

Worship and Song #3140

1. In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. *(Refrain)*

3. Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

4. Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. *(Refrain)*

2. I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say, give me Jesus. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual, harm. by Verolga Nix; Harm. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Company; CCLI 2515228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:1-8

from the Inclusive Bible

Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they gave a banquet in Jesus' honor, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at the table. Mary brought a pound of costly ointment, pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment.

Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples – the one who was to betray Jesus – protested. “Why wasn’t this ointment sold? It could have brought nearly a year’s wages, and the money been given to poor people!” Judas didn’t say this because he was concerned for poor people, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the common fund and would help himself to it.

So Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You have poor people with you always. But you won’t always have me.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Brazen Acts of Beauty

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

ONE: Jesus has always been one to invite.

He said, “Drop your nets and follow me.”

He said, “Let the little children come.”

He said, “Stand up from your mat, you are healed.”

Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed.

So friends, you are invited to this Table. Each and every one of us – with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions – we are invited to God’s table.

And here we will be met. Here we will be fed. Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy.

So, come.

Not because you must, but because you can.

Come. You are invited. This table is for you.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

ONE: God who knows us, we are amazed by you.

Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up.

We wish that we could be more like you in that way.

ALL: In a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking.

In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling.

In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating.

We long for these things.

ONE: So today we ask you – be with us on the hamster wheel.

Be with us when compassion fatigue rears her head.

Be with us when stress makes it hard to breathe.

Be with us when self-doubt pushes in close.

Be with us when exhaustion becomes constant or when loneliness becomes our primary language.

Be with us, and show us the way to the life you long for us.

ALL: Show us a life of expansive faith.

Show us a life of overflowing joy.

Show us a life of absorbing beauty.

Show us a life of engrossing purpose.

Show us a life that is as honest, and rich and meaningful as the one Jesus led.

ONE: And until that expansive and holy day, we will continue to gather at this Table.

Until that day we will continue to look for you in our midst.

So pour out a double portion of yourself onto this bread and cup so that we might catch a glimpse of your goodness.

God, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here.

ALL: Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

O How He Loves You and Me

TFWS #2108

1. O how he loves you and me! O how he
loves you and me! He gave his life.
What more could he give? O how he
loves you; O how he loves me; O how he
loves you and me!

2. Jesus to Calv'ry did go; his love for
sinners to show. What he did there
brought hope from despair. O how he
loves you; O how he love me; O how he
loves you and me!

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

As you leave this place,
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.
May you overflow with love for those around you.
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.
And in all of your living, and breathing and being,
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,
and may it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself –
go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

Central United Methodist Church

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