



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

Women's History Month

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

ACT OF PRAISE

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

WELCOME

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

ONE: Midwifing Spirit, you are tenacious and tender enough to hold the complexity of life in your embrace—

ALL: fragility & fortitude life & death undoing & becoming fear & courage movement & rest.

ONE: You are with us where we are.

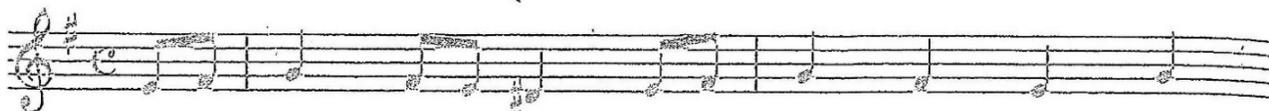
ALL: Thanks be to the Midwifing Spirit who is encouraging and wise,

ONE: who breathes with us in our vulnerability and strength.

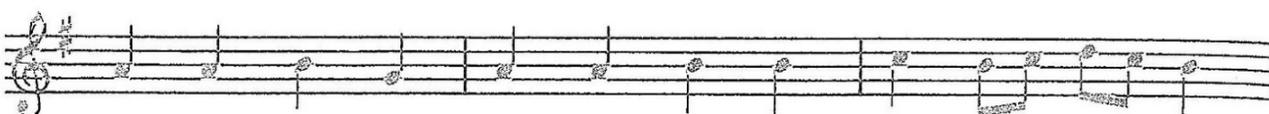
***OPENING HYMN**

The Glory of These Forty Days

422 The Glory of These Forty Days



1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days We
2. A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw The
3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, De-
4. Then grant that we like them be true, Con-



cel - e - brate with songs of praise; For Christ, by whom all
lov - ing God who gave the law; And to E - li - jah,
liv - ered from the li - on's might; And John, the Bride-groom's
sumed in fast and prayer with you; Our spir - its strength-en



things were made, Him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came The steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came The her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, And give us joy to see your face.

Text: *Clarum decus jejunii*; Gregory the Great, c.540-604; Tr. by Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947
Tune: ERHALT UNS HERR, LM; Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; Harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

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 OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Be Still and Know, by Ruth Elaine Schram



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

Elijah Rock, arr. by Jester Hairston

***SCRIPTURE**

John 3: 1-17

Clara Zundel

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "we know you're a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God."

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kin-dom of God."

Nicodemus said, "How can an adult be born a second time? I can't go back into my mother's womb to be born again?" Jesus replied, "The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God's kin-dom without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So, don't be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

“How can this be possible?” asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, “You’re a teacher of Israel, and you still don’t understand these matters? The truth of the matter is, we’re talking about what we know; we’re testifying about what we’ve seen – yet you don’t accept our testimony. If you don’t believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe? No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven – the Chosen One. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life. Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life.

God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

Womb of Life

TFWS # 2046

**1. Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.**

**We, your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.**

**2. Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us send the spirit by your breath.**

**3. Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.**

**4. Mother, Brother, Holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, One in three, and Three in one.
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising, one with all and one with you,**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Beloveds, the Midwifing Spirit ushers us towards expansive possibility,
that we might turn our wildness dreams of wholeness
into waking realities of ordinary tenderness
and radical solidarity

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

**Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams, Detroit,
Michigan 48226,
313.965.5422**

CUMCdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org

<http://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, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance Manager

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)