



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in 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: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; SOZ = Songs of Zion

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

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)

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, all who are thirsty.

ALL: Come, all who are seeking.

ONE: Come, all who are waiting.

ALL: Come, all who labor.

ONE: Come, all who need rest.

ALL: Come, all who dream dreams.

ONE: Come – whether you’re young or old, confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.

ALL: This is God’s house. All are welcome here. Let us worship holy God.

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH #519

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come, over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921; © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co.; renewed; CCL12815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN OF HISTORY

Mollika Biernat

CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories.

In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do.

The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed.

We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face to face with God, sharing honestly who we long to be.

Friends, there is healing here.

There is life to be gained here.

So join me in this moment of honesty. Join me in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store; but you know this even better than we do. Instead of trusting that we are made good, instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are, we stockpile our value in earthly things – in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power. Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick. Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down. We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension in your jaw. There is good news here. For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out, even when we forget our own self-worth, even when we lose our way – we belong to God. Say it with me –
ALL: **We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing. We are worthy of grace. We belong to God. Amen.**

INVITATION TO 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. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

***CENTERING HYMN**

Amazing Grace

adapted from UMH #378

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a soul like me! I once was
lost, but now am found, was blind, but
now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved; how
precious did that grace appear the hour I
first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I
have already come; tis grace hath brought
me safe thus far, and grace will lead me
home.
4. When we've been there ten thousand
years, bright shining as the sun, we've no
less days to sing God's praise than when
we'd first begun.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow,
We would like to ask that you scoop us up. Pick us up like a great gust of wind. Startle us awake like a first love. Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today. Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you. We are a scattered people, God. The world is moving faster than we can keep up. So we pray – scoop us up. Catch our eye. Open our ears. Capture our attention. We are here. We long to be close to you. Amen.

***GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 13:1-9

from the Inclusive Bible

On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

Jesus replied, “Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? Not at all! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways.”

Jesus told this parable, “There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn’t find any. The owner said to the vine dresser, ‘Look here! For three years now I’ve come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?’

“In reply, the vine dresser said, ‘Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.’”

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

Rev. Alex Plum

CLOSING HYMN

As The Deer

TFWS #2025

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Alex Plum

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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