



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

January 9, 2022

Baptism of Jesus 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: 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: Through every age of struggle, every era of hope,

**ALL: The Holy One is a faithful companion.**

ONE: From spirits that seduce with power,

**ALL: They deliver and transform.**

ONE: In the labors of liberation,

**ALL: They sustain with joy and courage.**

ONE: God, whose presence is a force for life.

## \*OPENING HYMN

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

UMH #605

**1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,  
where your cleansing waters flow.  
Number them among your people;  
bless as Christ blessed long ago.  
Weave them garments bright and  
sparkling; compass them with love  
and light. Fill, anoint them; send your  
Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.**

**3. O how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways! To your  
name be glory, honor! With our lives  
we worship, praise! We your people  
stand before you, water-washed and  
Spirit born. By your grace, our lives  
we offer, recreate us; God, transform!**

**2. We who bring them long for nurture;  
by your milk may we be fed. Let us  
join your feast, partaking cup of  
blessing, living bread. God, renew us,  
guide our footsteps; free from sin and  
all its snares, one with Christ in living,  
dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1987; MUSIC: Attr. To B. F. White, 1844; harm.  
by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978; Words © 1989 The United Methodist  
Publishing House; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; CCLI  
2815228

# ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## MORNING PRAYER

**Companioning One, the calling of love is full of risk. Oppressive forces and institutions seem so permanent, and our individual lives, so vulnerable and fleeting. Deepen our faith in your abiding promises, that we may be brave for each other. In community, we pray. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

When circumstances surround us with grief, box us into fear, or build up our defenses, God turns us toward each other. Together we find what we need to navigate even the most precarious of times. In this spirit of collective care, let us bring what we have with trust in the Sacred.

## **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**

**Loving One, we pray you would bless these gifts, small and humble, toward your work of freedom. Guide our intentions and our actions in the direction of your kingdom – where all creatures, creations, neighbors and even our enemies are delivered from systems of evil. That your blessings may abound on all the earth, Amen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Isaiah 43:1-7*

The Inclusive Bible

But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, hear the word of God, the One who created you, the One who fashioned you, Israel:

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the seas, I will be with you; when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown. Walk through fire, and you will not be singed; walk through flames and you will not be burned.

I am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer. I give Egypt as ransom for you, Nubia and Seba in exchange for you. You are more precious to me than Assyria; you are honored and I love you. I will give people in exchange for you, whole nations in exchange for your life. Have no fear, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east and gather them from the west.

To the north I will say, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back! Bring my daughters and sons from afar, return them from the ends of the earth – everyone who is called by my Name whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made!

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

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God!**

**\*CENTERING HYMN**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

TFWS #2051

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old. I  
rejoiced the day you were baptized, to  
see your life unfold. I was there when  
you were but a child, with a faith to  
suit you well; in a blaze of light you  
wandered off to find where demons  
dwell.

3. "In the middle ages of your life, not too  
old, no longer young, I'll be there to  
guide you through the night, complete  
what I've begun. When the evening  
gently closes in and you shut your  
weary eyes, I'll be there as I have  
always been with just one more  
surprise.

2. "When you heard the wonder of the  
Word I was there to cheer you on; you  
were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong. If you find  
someone to share your time and you  
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to  
make your verses rhyme from dusk  
till rising sun.

4. "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old, I  
rejoiced the day you were baptized, to  
see your life unfold."

WORDS: John Ylvisaker; MUSIC: John Ylvisaker; © 1985 John  
Ylvisaker; CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

**\*GOSPEL LESSON**

*Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22*

from the Inclusive Bible

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, "I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. A winnowing fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire."

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favor rests.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

**MESSAGE**

*Baptism Power*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

ONE: Siblings in Christ: Through the sacrament of baptism, God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth and offers new birth.

Today, we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**ALL: We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!**

ONE: Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**ALL: We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!**

ONE: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, being Christ's body on earth?

**ALL: We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in God's grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all cultures, ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities and ethnicities.**

ONE: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**ALL: We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

ONE: The Spirit of Christ is with us!

**ALL: Even so, Come Jesus!**

ONE: Let us pray: Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting. Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God! But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves. We are dry and thirsty, O God.

**ALL: Come, refresh us!**

ONE: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

**ALL: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

ONE: Come upon these waters.

**ALL: Come upon these waters. Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy. Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice. Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus. Let these waters make us long for your coming reign. Most Holy God, Glory to you! Jesus Christ, Glory to you! Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness! Glory to you!**

ONE: You are invited to touch your water, and to remember that you are baptized and rejoice!

## CLOSING HYMN

*Wade in the Water*

TFWS #2107

*(Refrain)* **Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, Wade in the water, God's a-gonna trouble the water.**

- 1. See that host all dressed in white, God's a-gonna trouble the water. The leader looks like the Israelite, God's a-gonna trouble the water. *(Refrain)***
- 2. See that band all dressed in red, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Looks like the band that Moses led, God's a-gonna trouble the water. *(Refrain)***

**3. Look over yonder, what do I see? God's a-gonna trouble the water. The Holy Ghost a coming on me, God's a-gonna trouble the water. *(Refrain)***

**4. If you don't believe I've been redeemed, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Just follow me down to Jordan's stream, God's a-gonna trouble the water. *(Refrain)***

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. by Carl Haywood; Arr. © 1992 Carl Haywood; CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

God will see the promises of justice through.

Whether these promises unfold over generations,  
or swiftly and unexpectedly,  
new life will grow,  
thrones will crumble,  
eras will end and begin.

As God's companions, may we faithfully companion one another,  
and all who labor for liberation.

In peace with courage, the Spirit leads us. Amen.

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### Central United Methodist Church

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