



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 26, 2023

29th Sunday After Pentecost

Regin of Christ

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.

W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal.

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2023)

ONE: Come! Let us give thanks to God!

ALL: We give thanks for all the times God has made a way out of no way, providing for us in body and spirit in times of challenge, heart break, and change.

ONE: Come! Let us give thanks to God!

ALL: We give thanks for the ways God weaves us together as a community of love and care, supporting one another in the ebbs and flows of daily life.

ONE: Let us come into God's presence with grateful praise!

ALL: Come! Let us worship God together. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth

UMH #92

**1. For the beauty of the earth, for the
glory of the skies, for the love which
from our birth over and around us
lies; (Refrain)**

**6. For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the
world so freely given, for that great,
great love of thine, peace on earth,
and joy in heaven: (Refrain)**

(Refrain) **God of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; MUSIC: Corrad Kocher,
1838; arr. by H. Monk, 1861; CCLI 2815228

**2. For the beauty of each hour of the
day and of the night, hill and vale,
and tree and flower, sun and moon,
and stars of light; (Refrain)**

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

Canticle of Thanksgiving by Dale Wood
Based on the Welsh tune, *The Ash Grove*

Creator of glory, all seasons thy story,
The roses, the rivers, the ridges, Thy mirth.

The straining of power, of eons each hour,
All heavens o'er meadows, old signs of rebirth.

The weeping in willows, all children in pillows,
All valleys, all oceans, Thy spaces of birth.

Thy blossoms unfolding, all angels beholding,
With morning and darkness renewing thy earth.

In quaking and thunder, when life breaks asunder,
In pain and in sorrow, all death is Thy door.

Thy table of prizes in daily surprises,
Our souls only feasting Thy treasure and store.

Through silence and wonder, our spirits would ponder,
A sight of the brightness, which saints now adore.

Thy love comes escaping, while watching and waiting,
Our hearts overflowing adore Thee, adore.

Thy beauty so tender, we live in Thy splendor,
O send us the life of the lamb on the throne.

Come visit our tables, our castles and stables,
Till nothing and no one be ever alone.

Come father, come mother, come sister, come brother,
The cup is o'er flowing, the harvest is done.

Rise up, O partaker! Give praise to the Maker!
The banquet is set in the midst of the Son!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Dream of a Church by Mark A. Miller

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. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN** *You Are My Hiding Place* TFWS #2055
You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance, whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you, I will trust in you. Let the weak say, "I am strong in the strength of our God." God, I will trust in you."

WORDS: Michael Ledner; MUSIC: Michael Ledner; © 1981 Maranatha! Music, admin. by The Copyright Co.; CCLI

2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand) *Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24*

For thus says Sovereign YHWH: I myself will search for my sheep; I will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when their flocks are scattered in every direction, I will search for my sheep and rescue them, no matter where they scattered on that day of full clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the countries and bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by its steams and wherever there is a settlement. I will feed them on good pasture land, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing ground. I myself will tend my flock and have it lie down, thus says Sovereign YHWH. I will seek out the lost, I will return the strayed, I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and I will watch over the fat and the sleek. I will be a true shepherd to them.

Therefore, thus says YHWH to you: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep, for you shove aside the weak with flank and shoulder; you butt them with your horns until they are scattered in every direction.

"I will save my flock and they will be ravaged no longer. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will set up over them one shepherd to care for them: my servant David. He will care for them and be their shepherd. And I, YHWH, will be their God, and my servant David will their leader. I, YHWH, have spoken.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Gratitude in the Midst of Challenging Time* Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN** *Sent Out in Jesus' Name* TFWS #2184
Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now to make the earth the place in which the kin-don comes. The angels can not change a world of hurt and pain in to a world of love, of justice and of peace. The task in ours to do, to set it really free. O help us to obey and carry out your will.

WORD: Anon.; trans. by Jorge Maldonado, alt.; MUSIC: Trad. Cuban; arr. by Carmen Peria; Trans. © 1988, arr. © 1996 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2023)

Go, now, giving thanks for all that God has done and all that God is doing in your life, in this community, and in the world. May we be surprised by grace as gratitude opens us to recognize God's abundant love all around us. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



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.

Central United Methodist Church

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Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Margaret Reese, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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 Waawiyaaanong (“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)