



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 20, 2025

EASTER 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Gavotte II, from the *English Suite No. 3* by Johann Sebastian Bach

Melissa Coppola

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

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

ONE: The tomb is empty!

ALL: How can it be?

ONE: God's Love did not die at the hands of the empire!

ALL: The Resurrected One is alive—

ONE: moving ahead,

ALL: meeting us on the road,

ONE: leading us towards liberation.

ALL: Violence cannot threaten

ONE: nor can the power-hungry silence

ALL: the workings of Radical Possibility.

ONE: Love is Resurrected!

ALL: The Holy is ever-present,

ONE: beckoning us towards collective flourishing.

ALL: Bloom new life, bloom!

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious Kin, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739; MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; CCLI 2815228

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 THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

I'm Gonna Sing arr. Audrey Snyder

The Children's Choir

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Who are those practicing sturdy, soulful hope? Who are those cultivating gardens of new life amidst the rubble? From the wisdom of the marginalized and the stories of the cast-aside comes a map to our collective flourishing. We collect our offerings this Easter, guided by this powerful undercurrent of love.

OFFERTORY

Life Is Born Again

music by Noel Nouvelet, words by Pamela Stewart, arr. by John Purifoy

***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 (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

God of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James—thank you for these women who compassionately cared for Jesus after his death, even in their heartbreak. How flippantly empire regards life, that's how fiercely we will cherish it! We dedicate our collected resources to this holy cherishing. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Christ Arose*, words and music by Robert Lowry, arr. by Mary McDonald
Melissa Coppola, Guest Organist, Brandon Reeves, Piano

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** *Luke 24:1-12*

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled back from the tomb; but when they entered the tomb, they didn't find the body of Jesus.

While they were still at a loss over what to think of this, two figures in dazzling garments stood beside them. Terrified, the women bowed to the ground. The two said to them, "Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? Jesus is not here, Christ has risen. Remember what Jesus said to you while still in Galilee— that the Chosen One must be delivered into the hands of sinners and be crucified, and on the third day would rise again." With this reminder, the words of Jesus came back to them.

When they returned from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but the story seemed like nonsense, and they refused to believe them.

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. He stooped down, but he could see nothing but the wrappings. So he went away, full of amazement at what had occurred.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

***CLOSING HYMN** *Easter People, Raise Your Voices* UMH #304

1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.

Christ has brought us heaven's choices;

heavenly music, let it ring.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.

For our God empowered us to triumph over every foe.

Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.

When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.

Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

BENEDICTION

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

The stone is rolled away!

The Resurrected One has not gone away,
but has gone ahead.

Go forth following the path of Radical Love
co-creating New Life at every turn.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Major from the *Well Tempered Clavier*

by Johann Sebastian Bach

Melissa Coppola

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, Director of Music

Melissa Coppola, Guest Organist

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building 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)