



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

January 12, 2025

**Second Sunday After Epiphany**

**Songs of Resistance**



**Can You Hear  
the People Sing**

## **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

Brandon Reeves

*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: When the way is difficult and dangerous,

**ALL: let us still choose what is good and just.**

ONE: When evil comes to break us down and break us apart,

**ALL: let us still choose to carry on with each other.**

ONE: When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts,

**ALL: let us still choose the courage to persist.**

ONE: For we know that the love and power of God, which abides in us, will not be overcome.

## OPENING HYMN:

*We Are Marching in the Light of God* TFWS #2235b

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.

WORDS: South Africa; MUSIC: South Africa; © 1984 Utryck, used with permission of Walton Music Corp; 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 THE PEACE

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

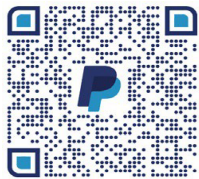
Deaconess Anne Hillman

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

The Living God has compassion for those forced to leave their homes, those displaced, those among rising prices with paychecks that will never be enough. The Holy upholds those yearning for belonging, those whose friends and companions have died, those whose communities have let them down. Let us be expressions of divine love by upholding one another; by offering each other belonging and home. Let us bring forth our offerings to God that it may be so.

### OFFERTORY

*You've Got to Be Carefully Taught (South Pacific)*  
Roger and Hammerstein, composers Benjamin Hill, Tenor



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 (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

Bless your beloveds with safe and secure housing. Bless your beloveds with rest and kind relationships. Shield your beloveds from destruction and disaster. Bless our offerings to these dreams of thriving. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### ANTHEM

*Do you Hear the People Sing?* from Les Miserables  
Music by Claude-Michel Schoenberg, lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer

# ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## \*SCRIPTURE

*Psalm 146*

Alleluia!

Praise God, my soul!

I will praise you all my life;

I will sing praise to my God while I live! Do not trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no salvation.

When their spirits depart, they return to the earth, and on that day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel, whose hope is in God, their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in it!

God, you keep faith forever: you secure justice for the oppressed;

you give food to the hungry;

you set captives free;

you give sight to the blind;

you raise up those who were bowed down;

you love those who do justice;

you protect strangers;

you sustain orphans and the bereaved—

but you thwart the way of the corrupt.

God will reign forever—your God, Zion!—

through all generations. Alleluia!

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

Rev. Paul Perez

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

UMH #431

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;

to take each moment and live each moment peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

# BENEDICTION

## **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH** (Cole Arthur Riley, *A Liturgy of Nonviolence*)

God of the Garden, we thank you for being a Maker who grounds all of creation in sacred shalom. We thank you that our origin is one of harmony, each plant, star, and human woven together in cosmic dignity. As we contend with a world that has fallen out of balance — a world tormented by greed, injustice, death, and decay — would you ground us again in our holy beginnings? Make us people of deep mutuality, believing in our interconnectedness with every created thing. Remind us that even in the face of evil, our dignity is magnified as we realize the dignity of another. And as we move toward justice and liberation, may we look at tools of death with new imaginations, that we would become like You — capable of beholding the dust, and raising up beauty.

## **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Brandon Reeves

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

[cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org](mailto:cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org) / [www.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 & 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 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)