



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

January 16, 2022

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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: God created all the races and nations of the world and willed that we live together in peace and harmony.

ALL: We were made to be family.

ONE: There is strife in the human family; injustice abounds as racism, classism, sexism, cultural imperialism and other isms. We are a divided people.

ALL: We have been called to let justice roll down like waters.

ONE: We must work passionately to bridge the gulf between us, overcome the injustices that oppress us, and restore community among us.

ALL: We must be determined enough to change what we can. We must have the courage to accept what we cannot change. Above all, we must be wise enough to know the difference.

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH #519

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONgOH_tq7-Q

CCLV 504362243

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconness Anne Hillman

LITANY OF CELEBRATION

ONE: Martin Luther King had a dream. The ideals of justice and freedom and the belief that all are created equal in the eyes of God are noble principles. But they are meaningless unless they become the personal possession of each one of us.

ALL: For Zion's sake I will not keep silent. I will struggle with myself. I will not rest until the dream of justice and freedom becomes my personal dream. I must realize that I am not an innocent bystander. I can help realize the dream by my action, or delay it by inaction.

ONE: Martin's dream of a day when people from all races and nations, even the offspring of slaves and former slave owners, can sit at a table as brothers and sisters and find ways of transforming their differences into assets. That was Martin's dream. What is your dream?

ALL: My dream is that one day soon I will find a way to stop just celebrating the dream and start living it. It must become a part of my daily life; or nothing much will change.

ONE: The dream is not about an ideal world; it is about the real world. Martin Luther King's poetic refrain, "I Have a Dream" is a call for us to remember the real world where injustice abounds.

ALL: When I am in the shelter of my home, I must remember the unhoused. When I eat, I must remember the hungry. When I feel secure, I must remember the insecure. When I see injustice, I must remember that it will not stop unless I stop it.

ONE: I have a dream!

ALL: I also have a dream. I have a dream that the Holy Spirit will arouse in me that very flame of righteousness that caused Martin Luther King to become a living sacrifice for the freedom and liberation of all of God's children. Then I will be able to resist injustice everywhere I see it, even within myself.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

There is so much joy in choosing community. This is where we remember that who we are is enough. This is how we free ourselves from lies that deaden. This is what makes possible laughter and hope, whatever else life brings. With thanks, let us share all that we have.

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

God, your delight in us is a healing grace. Every day we hold so much. There is worry here. There are silent struggles. There are needs unmet. In the heart of everything difficult, your love is a constant. For all that enables rest and freedom and the comfort of collective care, we bring our gifts with thanks. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

***CENTERING HYMN** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubqwxRrYsN4>

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ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Samuel 3:1-18 from the Inclusive Bible

Now young Samuel was in the service of God under Eli. In those days, the voice of God was rarely heard – prophesy was uncommon. One night Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak that he could no longer see, was sleeping in his bed. The lamp of God had not gone out and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near the Ark of the Covenant.

Then God called to Samuel.

Samuel answered, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli saying, “You called. Here I am!”

Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Now go back to sleep.” He went back to sleep.

A second time, God called Samuel, and he got up and went to Eli.

“Here I am!” Samuel said, “You called me.”

Eli repeated, “I did not call you. Go back to sleep.”

At that time Samuel had not yet encountered God and the word of God had not yet been revealed to him.

God called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli and said once more, “Here I am. You called me.”

Then Eli realized that God was calling the boy.

So he said to Samuel, “Go back and go to sleep, and if you are called, say “speak God, for your servant is listening.” So Samuel went back to sleep.

And God called, “Samuel! Samuel!”

And Samuel replied, “Yes, God, I am listening.”

Then God said to Samuel, “I am going to do things in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear about them ring. I am going to fulfill all the dreadful things I told Eli I would do against his family – from the beginning to the end. You are to tell Eli that I condemn his family forever because he knew of the blasphemies of his sons against God which he ignored. Therefore, I swear it to the house of Eli, neither sacrifice nor offering will ever expiate the guilt of the House of Eli.”

Samuel lay down to rest till morning, when he opened the doors of the Tent of Meeting. He feared to tell Eli about the vision, but Eli called to Samuel, who answered, “Here I am”.

“Samuel, come here, what did God say to you? Don’t hide it from me. May God curse you if you conceal from me one word of what you were told.”

Then Samuel told Eli everything, concealing nothing. Eli said, “God reigns. God will do what must be done.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

A Call In the Night

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CLOSING HYMN

Keep Your Eyes on The Prize

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1E0_jO_DXI

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BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

As we depart, both individually and collectively, be who you are called to be. In any and in all the ways you can: Seek justice. Resist evil. Add your voice. Move your feet. Extend your hands. Hold on to that long arc of history like your lives depend on it...and pull. With as little or as much strength as you have. So that together we might help it continue to bend in the direction of justice. And peace. And hope. And promise. For you and for me. For us and for them. For all the children of God. Amen.

Central United Methodist Church

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