



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

July 11, 2021
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

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

Daniel Dillingham

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Hungry for Meaning?

ALL: Welcome home!

ONE: Thirsty for purpose?

ALL: Welcome home.

ONE: Yearning for comfort?

ALL: Welcome home.

ONE: Burning for challenge?

ALL: Welcome home.

ONE: Eager for serving?

ALL: Welcome home and welcome to worship!

*OPENING HYMN

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreaming, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Gather Us In

TFSW #2236

3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kindom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WORDS: Marty Haugen; MUSIC: Marty Haugen; ©1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

RESPONSIVE READING

ONE: What is the sound that calls us? Listen carefully.

ALL: The beating of our own hearts calls us to ourselves. It calls us to be our true selves, our best selves. It calls us to be what we might become.

ONE: The breath of our neighbor calls us outside ourselves. It calls us to be companions, allies, partners.

ALL: Let us heed the call of our own hearts, where love and truth, compassion and justice are born.

ONE: Let us heed the call to others, to gather together for some great purpose, where passion and fidelity, truth and equality are nourished.

ALL: The silence calls us together that we may do the work we cannot do alone. Let us heed the calls that come in the silence, that we may be well, and do good in this world together. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Chantel Woodard

***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

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

It is Well with My Soul

UMH #377

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
(Refrain)

3. My sin – oh, the bless of this glorious thought – my sin – not in part, but the whole – is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! *(Refrain)*

4. And, Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul! *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876;
CCLI2815228

(Refrain) It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come, let this blessed assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate and has paid life and blood for my soul:
(Refrain)

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 6:14-29

The Common English Bible

Herod the king heard about these things, because the name of Jesus had become well-known. Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and this is why miraculous powers are at work through him.” Others were saying, “He is Elijah.” Still others were saying, “He is a prophet like one of the ancient prophets.” But when Herod heard these rumors, he said “John, whom I beheaded has been raised to life.”

He said this because Herod himself had arranged to have John arrested and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Herod’s brother Philip. Herod had married her, but John told Herod, “It’s against the law for you to marry your brother’s wife!” So Herodias had it in for John. She wanted to kill him, but she couldn’t. This was because Herod respected John. He regarded him as a righteous and holy person, so he protected him. John’s words greatly confused Herod, yet he enjoyed listening to him.

Finally, the time was right. It was on one of Herod's birthdays, when he had prepared a feast for his high-ranking officials and military officers and Galilee's leading residents. Herod's daughter Herodias came in and danced, thrilling Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the young woman, "Ask me whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." Then he swore to her, "Whatever you ask I will give to you, even as much as half of my kingdom."

She left the banquet hall and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

"John the Baptist's head," Herodias replied.

Hurrying back to the ruler, she made her request: "I want you to give me John the Baptist's head on a plate, right this minute." Although the king was upset, because of his solemn pledge and his guests, he didn't want to refuse her. So he ordered a guard to bring John's head. The guard went to the prison, cut off John's head, brought his head on a plate, and gave it to the young woman, and she gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came and took his dead body and laid it in a tomb.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Radicals Preparing the Way

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (written by Rev. Chelsey Hillyer)

ALL: God of mercy and justice, be with us. We lift our hearts to you, not because we have to, not because we are supposed to, but because it's how we respond to your unconditional love, because it feels good to know we are loved.

ONE: As long as there have been people to tell them, our ancestors in faith have shared stories of your mercy,

ALL: Of how you gave food to the poor, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the lost.

ONE: And as long as there have been people to tell them, our ancestors in faith have shared stories of your mercy.

ALL: Of how you gave freedom to the enslaved, opportunity to the outcast, and peace to the war-torn.

ONE: You acted with both mercy and justice,

ALL: Rescuing the Israelites in slavery in Egypt, providing them with manna when they were hungry.

ONE: And your people acted with both mercy and justice,

ALL: Like the prophets who cried out to care for widow, orphan and foreigner, and those who provided food, shelter and community.

ONE: You shared your mercy and justice with us, not only as gifts to be received from you, but as gifts that we are to share with the world. We see this gift most clearly in the gift of Jesus the Christ. Jesus showed us what a life of mercy and justice looked like:

ALL: In mercy, he gave food to the hungry. In justice, he broke social custom and shared tables with the powerful and the lowly at once. In mercy, he cared for the sick. In justice, he broke religious custom and healed on the Sabbath. In mercy, he had compassion for the poor. In justice, he spoke out against the Empire that held them in poverty. In mercy, he washed his disciples' feet. In justice, he died without protest to expose a corrupt system.

ONE: On the night he was handed over to the unjust system that killed him, he protested by sharing a meal with his friends. There, he took bread, gave thanks for God's mercy in providing it, shared God's mercy by giving it to his friends, then called them to remember the injustice of his broken body every time they ate bread. After they ate, they took the cup, gave thanks for God's mercy in providing it, shared God's mercy by giving it to his friends, then called them to remember the injustice of his spilled blood every time they drank wine.

ALL: But that wasn't all. God's mercy and justice burst forth when Jesus died, and his resurrection gave hope to all those who hunger for mercy and thirst for justice. God will always equip those who seek to share mercy and justice. Even death cannot stop God's incredible grace.

ONE: So, we ask God's Holy Spirit to be poured out on this meal, on these gifts of mercy: bread and juice, that we may remember Jesus' ministry of mercy and justice, that these gifts of mercy may become for us the body and life of Christ, so that we may show mercy and do justice, not just for ourselves, but for the transformation of the world.

PRAYER

God, through this meal, we pray that your grace would empower us to do justice, to offer mercy and to do so with humility. You have given us your Son as an example, and your Holy Spirit as Advocate. Give us the courage to do your work in the world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

**1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs
is the kindom of God. Blest are they,
full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.
(Refrain)**

**(Refrain) Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are
you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kindom of God!**

**2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they
shall inherit the earth. Blest are they,
who hunger and thirst; they shall have
their fill. (Refrain)**

Blest are They

TFWS #2155

- 3. Blest are they who show mercy, mercy
shall be theirs. Blest are they the pure
of heart; they shall see God. (Refrain)**
- 4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are
the children of God. Blest are they
who suffer in faith; the glory of God is
theirs. (Refrain)**
- 5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all
because of me. Rejoice and be glad,
yours is the kindom. Shine for all to
see. (Refrain)**

WORDS: David Haas; MUSIC: David Haas; © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.;
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BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

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Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists