



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

March 31, 2024

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.
W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Cantilene on an Easter Alleluia by Dom Paul Benoit

Gerald Furi

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson & Cynthia Bradford

The prelude and introit are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Discipleship Ministries*)

ONE: The tomb is dark, but empty

ALL: The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness

ONE: The stone has been rolled away

ALL: The one you are looking for has overcome death

ONE: The burial clothes are put aside

ALL: The one you are looking for is alive!

ONE: Christ is Risen!

ALL: Christ is Risen Indeed!

***OPENING HYMN**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today,

UMH #302

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!
5. Hail the Love of earth and heaven,
Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be
given, Alleluia! Thee we greet
triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the
Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. Kin of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Thee
to know, thy power to prove,
Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to
love, Alleluia!

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

Children are invited to return to the pews to sit with their families or to spend time in the Grace Space. There is no Sunday School this morning.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Christus Resurrexit (Christ Is Risen) music by Jay Althouse,
words by Sally Albrecht
Janae Swan, Trumpet

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*)

Come, let us look for the living – relationships and efforts that lead to the thriving of our spirits, our bodies, and our communities. Let us water seeds of solidarity, ten the soil of creativity, and relish the blooming of healing. As the body of the Risen Christ, we collect our offerings for the Love we want to grow. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Life is Born Again arr. by John Purifoy

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

John 20: 1-18

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple—the one Jesus loved—and told them, “The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Jesus!”

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn’t enter but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and

believed. As yet, they didn't understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus' body had lain.

They asked her, "Why are you weeping?" She answered them, "Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don't know where they have put the body."

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. He asked her, "Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?"

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, "Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!"—which means "Teacher."

Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!'"

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. "I have seen the Teacher!" she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Recognizing Resurrection

Rev. Paul Perez

*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.**

**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.**

**2. Fear of death can no more stop us
from our pressing here below. For
your Love empowered us to triumph
over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia!
On to victory now we go,**

WORDS: William M. James, 1979; MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867;
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BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (*Discipleship Ministries*)

As the Risen Christ called out, “Mary” on the other side of death, may you hear your own name on the lips of the Beloved calling you into hope, even when your heart is shattered. Evil cannot keep us down, Love rises. Love persists. Love always will. Let us go forth in a collective hallelujah.

CHORUS

Hallelujah Chorus by George Fredrick Handel

POSTLUDE

Easter Tocatta by Flor Peeters

Gerald Furi

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

cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org

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

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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)