



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 21, 2022

11th 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; WS=Worship & Song

**PRELUDE**

Bobbi Thompson

**INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We have come to worship the Living God,

**ALL: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.**

ONE: We have come to praise the Almighty God.

**ALL: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.**

ONE: We have come to worship the all-gracious God.

**ALL: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.**

**All glory to God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Sing Praise God, Who Has Shaped Us* Tune UMH #139

- 1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation! Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration! Gladsome rejoice – organ and trumpet and voice – joining God’s great congregation.**
- 2. Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction, who, as on eagle’s wings, saves us from sinful dejection. Have you observed, how we are always preserved by God’s parental affection?**
- 3. Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes. Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us. Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve; strength that would touch and caress us.**
- 4. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending. All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending. God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight: amen, amen never ending.**

Tune: William Bennett, 1863; Text: Joachim Neander, 1680; CCLI2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHILDREN’S TIME**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **UNISON PRAYER**

**Divine One, you have shown us how to live a life committed to Love. In Jesus, we learned that Love flourishes when we choose each other over power; when we choose justice over security; and when we choose compassion over judgment. We long to build communities rich in Love that center the needs of those most marginalized. We desire to uplift one another and tear down that which destroys any of our neighbors.**

**And yet, we struggle. We are often afraid. We sometimes feel powerless. We face giant obstacles. Give us courage, O God, and guide us in your Wisdom. For you have promised your people deliverance. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

One way we practice Love is by sharing all that we have with one another. Wherever there are needs among us, Love calls us to be generous. Wherever we do not have enough, Love enables us to receive. In commitment to each other, to this Sacred space, and to the community around us, let us bring our offerings to God.

## **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**

**Gracious One, though we often stray from Love, you do not give up on us. You send us prophets to awaken us to the ways we harm one another. By your grace, we are transformed. In gratitude for those who call us to Love more deeply, more broadly, and with commitment, receive our offerings. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CENTERING HYMN**     *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*     adapted from UMH #463

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| <b>1. God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone; as you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.</b> | <b>3. O fill me with your fullness, God, your overflowing love to know; in glowing word and kindling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.</b> |
| <b>2. O lead me, God, that I may lead some wanderers along life's way; O feed me so that I may feed your hungry ones without delay.</b>            | <b>4. O use me God, use even me just as you will, and when, and where, until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.</b>          |

# ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

(Inclusive Bible)

Now the word of God came to me and said: “Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I dedicated you. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

I said, “But Sovereign God! I don’t know how to speak! I’m too young!”

But God said, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ Now, go wherever I send you. And say whatever I command you. Do not fear anyone, for I am with you to protect you. It is God who speaks.” Then God touched my mouth and said to me, “Look, I am putting my words in your mouth. This day I appoint you over nations and territories, to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

*What If? Part Two*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*God of Generations*

(Tune: UMH 64)

- 1. God of generations, we are all your children; to your church we bring our gifts, our worship and our song. Young and old we follow, hand in hand together: in your great love, together we are strong.**
- 2. Christ, you welcomed children, called us to be like them. And received a boy’s small gift to feed a hungry crowd. In our church’s children, may we see you working: more than “our future”! They are faithful now.**
- 3. Spirit, freely moving, giving youth a vision, by your grace young Jeremiah heard your loving call; Mary was a young one when she learned her mission: through faithful youth, you offer truth to all.**
- 4. God of men and women, Helper on our journey, you have called us in our faith to grow and to mature. May we keep on learning, worship and praying, that each new day, we’ll serve you all the more.**

# BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Friends, let us go from here in relentless pursuit of Love.

We will not always get it right.

We will need each other to help us grow.

We will have to be brave.

But in this we trust,

all the while, God is with us. Amen.

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**Central United Methodist Church**  
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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Bobbi Thompson, Interim Music Director

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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*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 Waawiyaaataanonng (“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)