



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 19, 2023
Transfiguration 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.

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 gather in the presence of an Extravagant God –

ALL: Who spreads out the lushness of the cosmos,

ONE: And blessed our becoming.

ALL: We gather today changed by moments of Awe-

ONE: The wonder we witness calls us to the work of mutuality,

ALL: For we are siblings on our beautiful, heartbroken planet home.

ONE: Let us praise the God of transformation –

ALL: They are creative in Their Way-Making Love!

*OPENING HYMN

We Have Come At Christ's Own Bidding

TFWS #2103

1. We have come at Christ's own bidding to
this high and holy place, where we wait
with hope and longing for some token of
God's grace. Here we pray for new
assurance that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples for a
sign both clear and plain.

3. Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline, we, like
Peter, find it tempting to remain and
build a shrine, but true worship gives us
courage to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us people
of the God we bless.

2. Light breaks through our clouds and
shadows, splendor bathes the flesh joined
Word, Moses and Elijah marvel as the
heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts
behold with wonder how the Law and
Prophets meet; Christ with garments
drenched in brightness, stands
transfigured and complete.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr.; MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arr. by Ralph
Vaughan Williams; Words © 1988 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Wonderful Mystery, ground our bodies in this present moment, that we might experience your Love in ordinary and extraordinary ways. We desire not to be cynics, but to nurture the sense of wonder that was innate to us when we were children. Soothe that within us that desires numbing out and awaken our senses to the miracle of being alive. Amen.

ANTHEM

Bound for Jubilee by Joyce Eilers

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Come, you cloud of witnesses – let us behold the wonder of God through our care for each other! Like water droplets in a rain cloud, we will gather and disperse our resources. With a spirit of joy, let us offer what is ours to give.

OFFERTORY

Spirituals Medley. arr. Jacqueline Hairston Jesse Ward, Bass

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless our offerings – that rain might fall where it is needed. That all might not simply survive, but bloom into a garden abounding in beauty and love. Reside within us, Holy Spirit, that wisdom and courage might guide us towards transformation. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

*CENTERING HYMN

Holy Ground (two times)

TFWS #2272

**We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-9

The Inclusive Bible

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them. And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured – his face becoming as dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said, “Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!”

Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Out of the cloud came a voice which said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests. Listen to him!”

When they heard this, the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, “Get up! Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountainside, Jesus commanded them, “Don’t tell anyone about this until the Chosen One has risen from the Dead.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Resistance in the Valley

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CLOSING HYMN**

Come Away With Me

TFWS #2202

1. Come away with me to a quiet place,
apart from the world with its frantic
pace, to pray, reflect, and seek God's
grace. Come away with me, come
away.
2. Come and pray with me on a gentle
sea, on top of a hill in the Galilee, in
gardens like Gethsemane, come away
with me, come away.
3. Come today with thoughts of the
countless ways that God's steadfast
love blesses all our days, and join with
me in silent praise. Come away with
me, come away.
4. Come and say, in words whispered
from your soul, the feelings and
actions you can't control, your spirit
needs to be made whole, come away
with me, come away.
5. Come away with me to a quiet place, to
God's loving arms waiting to embrace
all those who come in hope of grace,
come away with me, come away.

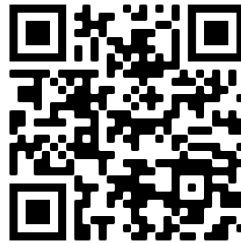
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BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

May the Holy shine warm on you like the sun and guide you like the wise face of the moon.
May you witness beauty in the ordinary and may wonder expand your capacity for love. Go
with God, Holy Mystery and Good Trouble-Maker. Amen.



**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.**

**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
Maggie Reese, Interim Music Director & Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

