



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

How does a weary world rejoice? We allow ourselves to be amazed.

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

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from A Sanctified Art)

ONE: Our God can part the sea.

ALL: God can bring water from a rock and provide bread in the desert.

ONE: Our God can walk on water.

ALL: He can heal the sick and turn water into wine.

ONE: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

ALL: God hears our voice when we cry and is closer than our own breath.

ONE: There is nothing our God cannot do.

ALL: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

***OPENING HYMN**

Canticle of the Turning

See Insert

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (from A Sanctified Art)

Sutorka family

ONE: How does a weary world practice joy?

ALL: By dancing and throwing birthday parties.

ONE: By hanging Christmas lights and holding sleepy babies.

By singing loudly, and
looking for good news.

ALL: By telling the story of Jesus and showing up for our community.

ONE: There are a million ways to practice joy. So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge.

ALL: With God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

ANTHEM

Light One Candle by Natalie Sleeth

Children's Choir

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Carol for Advent by Dan Besig & Nancy Price

Caen Thomason-Redus, flute



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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1 & 6

UMH #211

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)**

(Refrain) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

6. **O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by the justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and heath's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)**

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2 Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916, st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986.; MUSIC: 15th. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854; sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand)

Luke 1: 57-66

When the time came for Elizabeth to deliver, she gave birth to a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard that God had been merciful to her, they shared her joy. When all had assembled for the circumcision on the eighth day, they intended to name the baby after his father Zechariah. But his mother spoke up, “No, he is to be called John.”

They pointed out to her, “But no one in your family has this name.” Then they made signs to the father to find out what he wanted the child to be named. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” They were all astonished.

Immediately Zechariah’s mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. Their neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea, people were talking about these events. All who heard the news stored it in their hearts and said, “What will this child turn out to be?” For God’s hand was with him.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

A Very Special Child: An Advent/Christmas Pageant

Presented by the Children & Youth of Central UMC

Act 1 - Zechariah Meets an Angel

Act 2 - Elizabeth & Mary Share Their News

Act 3 - John Is Born

Act 4 - Jesus is Born

***CLOSING HYMN**

O Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH #196

1. **Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free; from our**

**fears and sins release us, let us find
our rest in thee. Israel’s strength**

and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born they people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744; MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal 1906*; CCLI 2815228

in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts along; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Kristi Crago, Lydia Thomason-Redus
Isaiah Thomason-Redus, French Horns



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.

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Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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

Margaret Reese, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

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 Waawiyataanong (“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)