



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

July 31, 2022

Eighth 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

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 Waawiyaataanong ("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)

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Love that never ceases

ALL: Energy who animates the Cosmos

ONE: Wellspring of abundance –

ALL: You do not withhold, you do no hoard;

ONE: You break bread and there is enough.

ALL: Singular Love

ONE: Unending Hope

ALL: Mysterious Peace –

ONE: We gather together, longing for you.

*OPENING HYMN

We Gather Together

(adapted from UMH #131)

1. We gather together to ask for God's blessing, to live in community, seeking God's will. We come now, as sisters and brothers, confessing the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

3. All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender. You offer us freedom, to follow or stray. Empowering all by hope you engender. Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

2. Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining, you call us, O Savior, to life that is new. You draw us away from self-centered complaining. You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

WORDS: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; trans. By Theodore Baker, 1894; MUSIC: 16th cent. Dutch melody; arr. by Edward Kremser, 1877; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

UNISON PRAYER

We witness Your wonder, Divine Cosmos, when new technology reveals to us the ancient: mountainscapes of orange nebulae, stars glowing even as they fade, the history of galaxies unfolding. Oh, that we could live with ease as the miraculous matter and energy we are, offering each other wonder as it have been offered to us. Show us the way, Holy Creator. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Mountains contrast molehills; storehouses contrast a few grains of rice – in a world of abundance, resources are hoarded by the few. When the inequity seems insurmountable, God blesses our co-laboring to make our communities equitable. And our efforts co-mingling with all those doing the same. Let us bring forth our offerings, that there may be enough for all.

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**

Living Christ, you tell us stories about how to have spiritual abundance – welcoming the stranger, attending to those who need medical care, sharing what we have, spending time in soulful solitude. May we live out your legacy of practical and extravagant love. Bless our offerings to this purpose. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CENTERING HYMN**

Wounded World that Cries for Healing TFWs #2177

**1. Wounded world that cries for healing –
here we hold each other’s pain,
wounded systems, bruised and bleeding
bear the load, the scars of strain;
dollars ration out compassion, hard
decisions rule the day, Jesus of the
healing Spirit, free us to another way!**

**3. Honor those whose loving spirit nurses
hope, restores and heals, towel and
basin used in service like the Christ
who comes and kneels; in the tending,
in the mending may we see the right
and fair, in the common quest for
wholeness heal each other by our care.**

WORDS: Kelly Willard; MUSIC: Kelly Willard; © 1982 Willing Heart
Music, admin. by Maranatha! Music c/o The Copyright Co.; CCLI
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**2. Through our nation’s spent
frustration, through the corridors of
stress, may there move a kindlier
wisdom all may feel and all may bless;
tax and tithe are for a purpose shared
to shield the poor and weak; past the
symptoms of our sickness let the voice
of justice speak.**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:13-21 (Inclusive Bible)

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance.”

Jesus replied, “Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?” Then he told the crowd, “Avoid greed in all its forms. Your life isn’t made more secure by what you own – even when you have more than you need.”

Jesus then told them a parable in these words: “There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest.

“ ‘What will I do?’ the farmer mused. ‘I have no place to store my harvest. I know! I’ll pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and goods will go there. Then I’ll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!’

“But God said to the farmer, “You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?”

“This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves but are not rich in God.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

***CLOSING HYMN***God of All Peoples*

(Tune: UMH #145)

1. God of all peoples, cultures and nations, God of the poor and wealthy ones, too – be with our land as we make decisions; Help us, we pray, to listen to you.
2. May we hear well your call to do justice; may we know all your children have worth. May we seek leaders who will end violence; may we choose ones who care for your earth.
3. May we be thoughtful in our decisions: who will be truthful, moral and wise? Who will restore the streets that we live in? Who will love those whom others despise?
4. How will the ones campaigning to lead us care for the stranger, outcast and poor? Will they hear ones who long have been silenced? Or will they say that wealth matters more?
5. God, may this time of anger be over; may we grow past our current divide. Make us as one, as sisters and brothers; in this good land, may your love abide.

Tune: Traditional Gaelic melody; Text: Copyright ©2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All Rights Reserved. CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

May we die to harmful ways like a star collapsing, beautiful in our unraveling.
May we open to the life-giving like a galaxy spreading out, brilliant in our becoming.
The Love that breathes the Milky Way, expands our lungs too –
How can we not go with God? Amen.

Central United Methodist Church
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