



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 16, 2023

Holy Humor 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

*OPENING LITANY

Raymie Oatley

ONE: Joy is loose,

ALL: In the wiggles of the children,

ONE: The whispers of the youth,

ALL: The smiles of the adults.

ONE: We praise God for this glorious day.

ALL: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

ONE: Joy and praise fill our hearts and in our songs.

ALL: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.

*OPENING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You Adapted from UMH #89

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love, hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays, stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise, field and soarest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.
3. You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you. Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan. Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife. Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOKE BREAK

ADULT TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

MORNING PRAYER

Elle Sutorka

**You smiled and the sun burst through the shadows of chaos;
you chuckled, and the platypus splashed in creation's fountain;
you laughed, and all that is good and beautiful was given shape by you,
Imaginative God.**

**Snickering at the feeble attempts of the evil one,
you showed us how to resist temptation,
giggling at sin's desperate desire to hold on to us,
you released us by your love;
howling with laughter at death's foolish belief that the tomb could hold you,
you burst forth into the kingdom as the stars peeled with joy,
Laughing Jesus.**

**As you fill us with new life, may we delight in sharing it with others,
as you tell us the good news which can never be taken from us,
may we rejoice in offering it to the broken, the sad, the lonely;
as you tickle us with grace, may we give it away with laughter on our lips
and joy in our hearts,
Spirit of Easter. Amen.**

JOKE BREAK

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Laughter and love grow when shared with others, so let us share a sign of God's love as we give our offering.

OFFERTORY

Lento from Six Trios by Anton Reicha (composer)

Isaiah Thomason-Redus, Lydia Thomason-Redus and Kristi Crago

***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**

Good and gracious god, our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of joy. Use these gifts to spread Your light to the world, so that all who are touched by Your presence may be filled with your Love. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL JOKE SHARING

Elle Sutorka

***CENTERING HYMN**

Hark! The Herald Angel Said

(Tune UMH #240)

1. Hark! The Herald Angel said, why seek Jesus with the dead? He's not here, as you can see, Grave cloths lie where he would be. On your way go tell the others, Jesus will be with his brothers. Sisters, too, he wants to see on the hills of Galilee. Hark! The Herald Angel said, He is risen from the dead.

3. When the doors were locked in fear, Christ the Lord again came near. Peace be with you! twice he said, Now I send you in my stead. Take the Spirit and forgive, Show the world that I do live. Let my love cast out all fear, trust that I am always near! Witness to the Risen One, Share my peace with everyone!

2. Two disciples walking down to Emmaus with a frown: Jesus walked and talked with them whose hearts were low and eyes were dim. Stay with us, for night's ahead. Jesus blessed and broke the bread, and their hearts within them sped: Now our eyes have seen the Lord! Now our hope has been restored!

CCLI 2815228, (words: Paul Lintern and Jonathan Hauze)

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*GOSPEL READING

Based on *Matthew 5:1-13*

Johnathan Oatley

In seeing the people, Jesus went up on a mountain, and when he was seated His disciples came to Him. Then, He opened his mouth and taught them saying:

Blessed are those who are peaceful and try to stop others from fighting. God will call them sons and daughters.

Blessed are those who are kind and forgiving to others. They will be given the same.

Blessed are those who don't show off and think of others first. They will be given the Earth.

Blessed are those who rely on God's help. Heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who get in trouble for doing the right thing. God's kingdom belongs to them.

Blessed are those who try to please God in what they do and think. They will be with God.

Blessed are those who want fairness. God will satisfy them.

Blessed are those who are sad and upset. God will comfort them.

Jesus said that we should be happy and glad because we will be blessed in Heaven if we follow His teachings.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Izzy Sutorka

*CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on The Smartphone

(Tune UMH #251)

(Chorus) Go tell it on the smartphone,
FaceTime and Skype and way too
many Zooms, go tell it on the
smartphone, that Jesus is alive.

2. The women found no body, their spices
to anoint: instead they found an angel,
God's message to appoint. *(Chorus)*

1. While soldiers watched the gravesite
that quiet Sunday dawn. There came
a big commotion and then the storm
was gone. *(Chorus)*

3. When Jesus spoke to Mary, He said,
"Don't hold me tight, I'm going to our
God, so that you'll always have my
light!" *(Chorus)*

CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

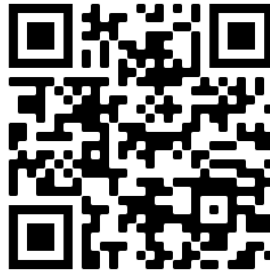
*BENEDICTION

Children & Youth of Central UMC

May the God of humor and joy bring you sunshine and a smile to your face.

May the God of love and laughter be with you in all that you do and say.

And may Christ, our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you, for the good work has just begun! 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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www.centralumchurchdetroit.org**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

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
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent & Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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 Waawiyaataanong (“At the curved shores.”), the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy, but which is now referred to as Detroit. In 807 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)