



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 27, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Brandon Reeves & Augustus Williamson

The Prelude and the Postlude are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are here today because the weeping Mary of Magdala once said:

ALL: "I have seen Jesus!"

ONE: We are here in this Easter season because Jesus still comes into our locked spaces and says:

ALL: "Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit."

ONE: We are here today like doubting Thomas who finally cried:

ALL: "My Christ and My God"

ONE: We are here like Peter, tempted to forget the call of Jesus:

ALL: "I'm going fishing."

ONE: We're here this morning because of Jesus, who asks us face-to-face:

ALL: "Do you truly love me?"

ONE: We gather here to whisper timidly.

ALL: "Yes, Jesus, you know that we love you."

ONE: We are here as a congregation only because many faithful disciples have listened to Jesus' words:

ALL: "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid! Go and tell, 'Jesus has been raised!'"

***OPENING HYMN**

Up From the Grave He Arose!

UMH #322

**1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my God! (*Refrain*)**

**(*Refrain*): Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

**2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my God! (*Refrain*)**

**3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my God! (*Refrain*)**

WORDS: Robert Lowry, 1874; MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1874; CCLI 2815228

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS



**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

In our most vulnerable moments - spiritually, materially, relationally - Christ manifests in community embrace. In shared food. In listening ears. In acts of solidarity and moral witness. Let us bring our offerings together, so that we may meet and be met by the living Christ.

OFFERTORY

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth by George Frederic Handel
Roderick Reese, 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. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Compassionate One, with these offerings we also bring our anxieties and uncertainties, skepticisms and the great aches that leave us cynical about change. Meet our vulnerabilities with your own, O God. Root our faith not in coercion nor suppression, but in authentic connection and solidarity. That we may rise as a community to the calling of these days. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Ride On King Jesus!, arr. by H.T. Burleigh
Roderick Reese, Bass

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

John 20:24-29

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!"

Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take our finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief but believe!"

Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"

Jesus then said,

"You've become a believer

Because you saw me.

Blessed are those who have not seen

And yet have believed."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Go Ahead and Doubt!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

1. I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
and just the time I need him, he's always near. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me I see his loving care,
and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
the day of his appearing will come at last. *(Refrain)*

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up our voice and sing
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the Kin!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
none other is so loving, so good and kind. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933; MUSIC: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933; © 1933, renewed 1961 The Rodeheaver Co.; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH *(enfleshed: liturgy that matters)*

To be people of peace we must be people of justice.

To be people of justice, we must share in risk

and draw upon our faith when we are afraid.

For God has not given up on this world.

May we not give up on each other.

The ancient promise is this: there is no power nor principality

that can keep the Spirit of Christ from rising again.

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

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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, Director of Music & Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator & Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building Manager

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)