



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

September 24, 2023

17th 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. W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing

**PRELUDE AND INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson & Augustus Williamson

### **ACTS OF PRAISE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**) (adapted from enfolded: liturgy that matters)

**ONE:** Since the beginning, God has been relentlessly pursuing us in love.

**ALL:** **Though our faithfulness ebbs and flows, God's love endures forever.**

**ONE:** Our faith is placed in Love Eternal that lifts broken spirits and brings new life from places of ruin.

**ALL:** **With hope that is neither narrow nor fragile, we gather together.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

UMH #384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us they humble dwelling; all they faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747; MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870;  
CCLI 2815228

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

## ACTS OF SHARING

### GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### ANTHEM

*The Gift of Love* by Hal H. Hopson

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*On Eagle's Wings*, words and music by Michael Joncas  
Roderick Reese, Bass Soloist

**\*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)

**Beloved One, in bringing our offerings together, we ask your blessing on this community. We know there is nothing more precious, more powerful, more persistent than the gifts of your love. May we be committed to sharing it materially, spiritually, and relationally in all aspects of our lives. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### \*CENTERING HYMN

*Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)*

TFWS # 2179

**Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

**Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibiest.**

WORDS: 9<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin; MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taize; © 1979, Les Presses de Taize (France). Admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*SCRIPTURE (Please Stand) *1 John 4:7-9; 11-12; 19-21* Inclusive Bible

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God.

Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Anointed One.

Beloved, if God has loved us so. We must have the same love for one another.

No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

We love because God first loved us. If you say you love God but hate your sister or brother, you are a liar. For you cannot love God, who you have not seen, if you hate your neighbor, whom you have seen. If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well; we have this commandment from God.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE

*A Peculiar People: God is Love*

Rev. Paul Perez

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*O How I Love Jesus*

UMH #170

**1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth. (Refrain)**

**3. It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe; who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. (Refrain)**

**(Refrain) O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!**

WORDS: Frederick Whitfield, 1855; MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> cent. USA Melody; CCLI 2815228

# BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

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

Let us not be deceived! To cast our lot with love is a serious thing. Though some have called love weak, such is a shallow understanding. Love is power. Love is solidarity. Love is freedom, defiant and emerging. With courage, we are sent to practice love by the one who raises life from death.

## **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Bobbi Thompson



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

*This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425.*

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## **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)