



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 13, 2025

PALM & PASSION 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Brandon Reeves

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Today is the beginning of Holy Week, what the liturgical calendar calls Palm and Passion Sunday. It is a journey from the jubilant, playful and even a bit satirical street theater of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the heat break of Jesus consoling his beloveds with his final breaths. Following our Lenten theme—"Seeding the Soil: Contemplative Practices for Sustaining our Spirits"—we will gently and tenderly embody the story with the contemplative practice of body prayer.

We begin with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. As our first act of body prayer, you are invited to become part of the gathered protestors and to wave your palm branches during the scripture reading and anthem.

JESUS IN THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM

INVITATION TO BODY PRAYER

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, satirizing the pomp of a royal arrival. Waive your palms during the scripture and hymn and join the crowds in playfully protesting the absurdity of imperial power.

***RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE** based on *John 12:12-15*

The next day, the great crowd that had come for the Passover feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and went out to meet him. Jesus rode in sitting upon a donkey. The crowd shouted joyfully,

“Hosanna!

**Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of our God!**

ANTHEM

Hosanna Son of David, words and music by Larry Shackley
Janae Swanson, Trumpet

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

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

(adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters* and the *United Methodist Book of Worship*)

INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Siblings in Christ: Today Thomas Hart, Anton Hofmann, Caitlyn Reames, Onna Reames, Sydney Sinclair, and Mattalyn Wiley present themselves for membership in this community.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

To the Candidates:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
aim to divest from oppressive systems of this world,
and cast your lot with all who struggle for freedom?

I do.

Do you accept the power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you commit to following the Way of Christ,
put your trust in the ancient grace that goes before us,
and promise to be loyal to God's love above all else?

I do.

To the congregation:

Do you, as a collective embodiment of Christ in the world,
reaffirm your commitment to resisting the powers of evil
and practicing the solidarity Jesus modeled for us?

ALL: We do.

Will you nurture one another in the life of faith
and include these persons now before you in this community,
providing space for their authentic becoming,
and supporting God's unfolding in their life?

**ALL: With God's help, we will proclaim and practice the good news that sets free.
We will seek to live in likeness with Christ.
We will surround these persons with love and forgiveness,
modeling how a community takes care of each other,
makes mistakes, learns, grows, and nurtures joy.
We will encourage these persons in service to the flourishing of their
communities, the earth and all its creatures, and all who seek solidarity, near
and globally.
We will pray for these persons.
that they may be disciples of radical love all the days of their life.**

To All:

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith:

**ALL: We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

("A New Creed," United Church of Canada)

ONE: God, this we believe.

ALL: Help us in our unbelief!

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mattalyn, Caitlyn, and Onna – as baptized members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

RECEPTION INTO CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To all the candidates, as members of this congregation, Central United Methodist Church, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

To the congregation:

Members of Central United Methodist Church,
I commend these members to your love and care!

The congregation responds:

**We give thank for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in love and kinship!**

**As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,**

**We renew our commitment
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness.**

To the new members:

Anton, Mattlyn, Thomas, Sydney, Onna, and Caitlyn may God - Creator, Christ, and Holy One - continue to bless you in the life long journey of faith. Amen!

HYMN

At the Font We Start Our Journey

TFWS #2114

**1. At the font we start our journey,
in the Easter faith baptized;
doubts and fears no longer blind us, by the light of Christ surprised.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope held out and realized.**

**2. At the pulpit we are fashioned
by the Easter tale retold
into witnesses and prophets, by the power of Christ made bold.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.**

**3. At the altar we are nourished
with the Easter gift of bread.
in our breaking it to pieces see the love of Christ outspread.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Life embraced, yet freely shed.**

**4. At the door we are commissioned,
now the Easter victory's won,
to restore a world divided to the peace of Christ as one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter's work must still be done.**

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sanctus, from the *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray,
Joseph Stevenson, Tenor, Melissa Coppola, Piano
Brandon Reeves, Drums

DOXOLOGY *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, V:4 & 5* UMH #269

4. **And through these days of penitence, and through your Passion-tide, forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**
5. **Abide with us that when this life of suffering is past, an Easter of unending joy, we may attain at last!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

INTRODUCTION

JESUS WASHES HIS FRIENDS' FEET

INVITATION TO BODY PRAYER

Jesus surprises his friends with the humble act of washing their feet. Place your hands palm-up in your lap, open and receptive. Feel the invitation to both give and receive love, to serve and be served.

SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-17, 34-35

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was.

The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus—knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God—rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Rabbi, you're not going to wash my feet, are you?"

Jesus answered, "You don't realize what I am doing right now, but later you'll understand."

Peter replied, "You'll never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me."

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Then, Rabbi, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus said, "Any who have taken a bath are clean all over and only need to wash their feet—and you're clean, though not everyone of you." For Jesus knew who was to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me "Teacher," and "Sovereign"—and rightly, for so I am. If I, then—your Teacher and Sovereign—have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

"The truth of the matter is, no subordinate is greater than the superior; no messenger outranks the sender.

Once you know all these things, you'll be blessed if you put them into practice...

I give you a new commandment:

Love one another.

And you're to love one another.

The way I have loved you.

This is how all will know that you're my disciples:

That you truly love one another."

CHOIR

*Acclamation, from the Gospel Mass by Robert Ray,
Melissa Coppola, Piano, Brandon Reeves, Drums*

JESUS IS ARRESTED

INVITATION TO BODY PRAYER

Jesus is betrayed by a friend and arrested by the authorities, you are invited to cross your arms over your chest, feeling the weight of betrayal and injustice.

SCRIPTURE

John 18:1-12

After Jesus had said all this, he left with the disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. There was a garden there, and Jesus and the disciples entered it.

Judas, the traitor, knew the place well, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. Judas led the Roman cohort to the place, along with some Temple guards sent by the chief priests and Pharisees. All were armed and carried lanterns and torches.

Then Jesus, aware of everything that was going to take place, stepped forward and said to them, "Who are you looking for?"

"Are you the Jesus of Nazareth?" they asked.

Jesus said, "I am." Now Judas, the traitor, was with them. When Jesus said, "I am," they all drew back and fell to the ground.

Again, Jesus ask them, "Who are you looking for?" They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I have already told you that I am the one you want. If I am the one you're looking for, let the others go." This was to fulfill what he had spoken: "Of those you gave me, I have not lost a single one."

Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's attendant, cutting off his right ear. The name of the attendant was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup Abba God has given me?"

Then the cohort and its captain and the Temple guards seized and bound Jesus.

CHOIR

Shadow Garden, words and music by Joseph M. Martin

JESUS SPEAKS TRUTH TO POWER

INVITATION TO BODY PRAYER

Jesus stands before power unshaken. As we listen, press your feet firmly into the ground and straighten your spine. Feel your connection to the earth and to God's strength within you.

SCRIPTURE

John 18:19-23, 28-29, 33-38a

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teachings. Jesus answered, "I have spoken publicly to everyone; I have always taught in synagogues and in the Temple area where the whole Jewish people congregates. I have said nothing in secret. So why do you question me? Ask those who have heard me. Ask them what I said to them—they know what I said."

When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing by slapped him and said, "Is this how you answer the high priest?"

"If I've said anything wrong," Jesus replied, "point it out; but if I'm right in what I said, why do you strike me?"

At daybreak, they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. The Temple authorities didn't enter the Praetorium, for they would have become ritually unclean and unable to eat the Passover seder. So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charges do you bring against this person?"

So Pilate reentered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?"

Pilate replied, "Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the Temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world."

Pilate said, "So you're a King?"

Jesus replied, "You say I'm a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice."

"Truth? What is truth?" asked Pilate.

HYMN

When We Speak Truth to Power

Mark Gruber-Lebowitz, 2025

Henry T. Smart, 1835

1. When we speak truth to pow - er, our God is glor - i - fied; hate. long true,
2. At times the truths we are ut - ter the pow - er - ful might be -
3. As im - mi - grants and threat - ened cy, of told they don't be -
4. Great God of grace and mer - cy, of all that's just and long true,

in It's and each acts then trans - re - of our folks fug - ee ho God are dim - bold - ness - er, "Speak their and Lord up, truth ev - of don't dis - missed rain - all hes - i - takes i - pride. tate! wrong, hue.

We're called to seize the mo - ment, to step be - yond our fear
My Word will be Je - sus ar - mor, to my love will light our way;
the voice these and of Je - sus oth - er mat - ters, as e - through us all time it's to done:
In these and of Je - sus oth - er mat - ters, as e - through us all time it's to be

and I'll speak the way of be - Je - sus to those who need to hear.
"Go walk wel - come in the to - side - sus you, each step and in ev - ery day."
Your voice of truth the to - pow - er find that me speaks out faith - ful - ly!

JESUS' CONSOLES HIS BELOVEDS & SHARES HIS SPIRIT

INVITATION TO BODY PRAYER

As Jesus offers comfort to loved ones and breathes his Spirit upon the world, place one hand on your heart and the other on your stomach. Feel the rise and fall of your breath, remembering that God's Spirit is as near to you as the air you breathe.

SCRIPTURE

John 19: 16b-17, 25-30a

So they took Jesus, carrying his own cross, to what is called the Place of the Skull—in Hebrew, "Golgotha."

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother; his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas; and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple who he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Here is your son." Then he said to his disciple, "Here is your mother." From that moment, the disciple took her into his household.

After this, Jesus knew that now all was completed, and to fulfill scripture perfectly, he said, "I am thirsty." There was a jar of cheap wine nearby, so they put a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick and raised it to his lips.

Jesus took the wine and said, "It is finished."

MUSIC

What Wondrous Love is this

Brandon Reeves & Keith Livermore

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

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

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 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)