



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

July 16, 2023

7th 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;

W&S = Worship & Song

**PRELUDE AND INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

### **ACTS OF PRAISE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (enfleshed)

ONE: Let us prepare our hearts for God's holy work

**ALL: Let us ready ourselves for Divine disruption**

ONE: As the earth longs to flourish and the people dream of rest

**ALL: God has promised to show us the way**

ONE: Setting down our egos, taking up our faith

**ALL: We seek the seeds of transformation**

ONE: Wisdom is here, alive and among us. Let us receive her truth.

**\*OPENING HYMN**                      *God, Whose Love is Reigning o'er Us*    UMH #100 (v. 1, 2, & 5)

**1. God, whose love is reigning o'er us,  
source of all, the ending true; hear the  
universal chorus raised in joyful praise  
to you: Alleluia, Alleluia, worship  
ancient, worship new.**

**5. Lift we then our human voices in the  
songs that faith would bring; live we  
then in human choices lives that, like  
our music, sing: Alleluia, Alleluia,  
joined in love our praises ring!**

**2. Word of God from nature bringing  
springtime green and autumn gold;  
mountain streams like children singing,  
ocean waves like thunder bold: Alleluia,  
Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.**

WORDS: William Boyd Grove, 1980; MUSIC: John Goss, 1869; Words ©  
1980 William Boyd Grove, CCLI 2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

**GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Clara Zundel

**ANTHEM**

*Just A Little Talk With Jesus*

Brandon Reeves

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

Brandon Reeves

**\*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)**

**Holy One, into your care, we bring all that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to  
become. We trust in the hopes you hold for us. We take comfort in the love you have for us.  
And we rise in the truths you reveal to us. In gratitude for your faithful guidance, we bring  
our offerings in service to the flourishing of life, within and beyond this community. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**CENTERING HYMN**    *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round*

Zion Still Sings#104

**1. Ain't gonna let nobody turn me  
'round, turn me 'round, turn me  
'round. Ain't gonna let no body turn  
me 'round, I'm gonna keep on a  
walkin', keep on a talkin', marchin' on  
the to freedom land.**

WORDS: African American Spiritual; MUSIC: African American  
spiritual, arr. by Lavinia L. T. Odejimi; Arr. © 2007 Abingdon Press,  
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**ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**\*SCRIPTURE**

*Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23*

Indigo Kerr

Please stand in body or spirit for the Scripture reading:

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables:

“One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up.

Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!”

“Now listen to the parable of the sower. When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path. Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away. Those who received the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and message produces no fruit. But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*Scattered Dreams*

Rev. Paul Perez

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)*

UMH #583

**1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night; you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark.**

**You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain; you are the sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witness wherever you go.**

*(Refrain)* **Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all, messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love. Til the end of the world.” Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose; “Lo, I’ll be with you forever, eternal love. Till the end of the world.”**

**2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark, sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love; you are the shepherds to lead the whole world through valleys and pastures of peace.**

**You are the friends that I chose for myself, the word that I want to proclaim. You are the new kin-dom build on a rock where justice and truth always reign. *(Refrain)***

**3. You are the life that will nurture the plant; you're the waves in a turbulent sea; yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield.**

**There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might; may your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God. *(Refrain)***

Words: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979; trans. by Raquel Gutierrez-Achon; and Skinner Chavez-Melo; MUSIC: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979; harm. by Skinner Chavez-Melo, 1987; © 1979 Ediciones Paulines; trans © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1987 Skinner Chavez-Melo; CCLI 2815228

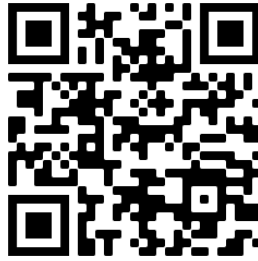
## **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH**

(enfleshed)

Though we face many challenges and hurdles on paths of change and transformation, We are never abandoned to destruction. The Spirit accompanies all who long for justice and liberation, fans the flames of repentance and renewal, and raises new life from even the most hopeless of places. Let us go in the confidence of this God, ready for the loving labors of lasting change. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

Bobbi Thompson



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**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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**Central United Methodist Church  
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422  
[www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://www.centralumchurchdetroit.org)**

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 Meadows, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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*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)