



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 16, 2022

18<sup>th</sup> 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;

SOZ = Songs of Zion; WS=Worship & Song

**PRELUDE**

Bobbi Thompson

**INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Moved-by-our-Suffering God.

**ALL: We cry out to you!**

ONE: Way-Making God,

**ALL: Don't delay another moment!**

ONE: And yet, you call out to us too, Tender One.

**ALL: You ask for our help, Heartbroken One.**

ONE: We worship the Radical and Relational Holy Spirit.

**ALL: The helper and in need of our help.**

**\*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 thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

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.

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

**ACTS OF SHARING**

**GREETING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**OPENING PRAYER**

Sometimes we feel compelled to action and sometimes we need to cry on the sofa. Sometimes we have fortitude to show up boldly for others and sometimes we need to get ourselves through another day. Sometimes the Beloved Community brings us healing, other times group dynamics overwhelm. Our prayer and our actions intermingle and overlap. They wax and they wane. Consolation and courage comes and goes. Bless it all, Changing God. Amen.

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

We learn from those who boldly ask for what they need, for they are exemplars of the interdependence required for living. We learn from those who hold their abundance in open hands, for they are connected with the ebb and flow of collective care. Let us gather our offerings this day, that needs may be met and abundance may be shared.

## OFFERTORY

**\*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

May Oliver wrote, “I don’t know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention....” And so we pay attention to the needs of our community, ourselves included. And we imagine praying as having something to do with solidarity. Bless our offerings to our mindful attention. Bless our offerings towards our steadfast showing up. Amen.

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

### \*CENTERING HYMN

*God, You Hear Our Weary Praying* (Tune UMH #605)

- 1. God, you hear our weary praying and you know that we lose heart. All around we see the suffering of a world that’s torn apart. We see leaders of the nations filled with arrogance and greed. We see friends and family hurting, facing overwhelming need.**
- 2. God, we cannot help but wonder: Do our prayers do any good? Do they change the nations’ leaders? Do they change our neighborhood? Why do loved ones keep on suffering when they’re in our constant prayer? Do you hear the cries we’re offering? Are you listening? Are you there?**
- 3. Then you teach us of this woman: She was widowed; she was poor. “Grant me justice!” she kept calling at an unjust judge’s door. Though that judge respected no one, he was no match for her cries. He responded to her pleading, granting justice, changing lives.**
- 4. How much more is your compassion! God, you’re just and good and fair. May we lift to you our sorrows and the burdens that we bear. May we pray, for you reign o’er us! May we ask – for you are kind! May we trust that you will help us in your goodness, in your time.**

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 18:1-8*

Jesus told the disciples a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart. “Once there was a judge in a certain city who feared no one – not even God. A woman in that city who had been widowed kept coming to the judge and saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ For a time the judge refused, but finally the judge thought, ‘I care little for god or people, but this woman won’t leave me alone. I’d better give her the protection she seeks, or she’ll keep coming and wear me out!’”

Jesus said, “Listen to what this corrupt judge is saying. Won’t God then do justice to the chosen who call out day and night? Will God delay long over them? I tell you, God will give them swift justice.

“But when the Promised One comes, will faith be found anywhere on earth?”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### MESSAGE

*Nagging for Justice*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*In God’s Time*

adapted from TFWS #2203

**1. In God’s time, In God’s time; God makes all things beautiful in God’s time. God please show me every day as you’re teaching me your way, that you do just what you say in your time.**

**2. In your time, in your time; you make all things beautiful in your time. God, my life to you I bring, may each song I have to sing be to you a lovely thing in your time.**

CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Go forth in kindness, creaturely ones,  
For the Holy does not demand more than we can give.  
They invite us to unlock and lift away what holds us down,  
that all beings everywhere might be free. 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.**

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**Central United Methodist Church  
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[www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://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

Bobbi Thompson, Interim Music Director

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and 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 Waawiyataanong (“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)