



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

July 23, 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  
Augustus Williamson

### ACTS OF PRAISE

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

ONE: Come and dwell in the presence of God

**ALL: In this place, we remember who we are**

ONE: We find ourselves capable of hard and holy things

**ALL: Love sets us free from fear and shame**

ONE: What is our part in God's kin-dom?

**ALL: We gather to listen, to dream, to discover.**

ONE: Faithful people, let us commune with God.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Gather Us In*

TFWS #2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame; call to us now; and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kin-dom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in all peoples together, fire of live in our flesh and our bone.

WORDS: Marty Haugen; MUSIC: Marty Haugen; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

2. We are the young our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

**ACTS OF SHARING**

**GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Pie Jesu* by Charles Gounod

Laura Burger

**\*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)

Spirit of Solidarity, wherever there is ache, you are there. You groan with those who suffer. You cry out through prophets calling for justice. You stir the spirits of the complacent and trouble the hearts of the indifferent. With thanks for your presence that transforms and your hope that endures, we bring our offerings and pray that we may be faithful companions to one another and every neighbor in struggle. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*CENTERING HYMN**

*God, Listen to Your Children Praying*

ZSS #156

**God, listen to your children praying, God, send your Spirit in this place; God, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace. (2 times)**

WORDS: Ken Medema; MUSIC: Ken Medema; © 1973 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

**ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**\*SCRIPTURE**

*Romans 8: 12-25 Inclusive Bible*

Please stand in body or spirit for the Scripture reading:

Therefore, we are under an obligation, my sisters and brothers—but not to the flesh or to live according to the flesh.

If you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if you live by the Spirit, you will put to death the evil deeds of the body and you will live.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. For the Spirit that God has given you does not enslave you and trap you in fear; instead, through the Spirit God has adopted you as children, and by that Spirit we cry out, “Abba!” God’s Spirit joins with our spirit to declare that we are God’s children. And if we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing in Christ’s suffering and sharing in Christ’s glory.

Indeed, I consider the sufferings of the present to be nothing compared with the glory that will be revealed in us. All creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God. Creation was subjected to transience and futility, not of its own accord, but because of the One who subjected it—in the hope that creation itself would be freed from its slavery to corruption and would come to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the firstfruits of the Spirit—we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; why does one hope for what one sees? And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*Simplicity to Complexity to Simplicity*

Rev. Paul Perez

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UMH #206

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. (Refrain)**

**3. I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **In God there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Christ Jesus**

WORDS: Kathleen ThomerSon, 1966; MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966; © 1970, 1975 Celebration; CCLI 2815228

## **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed)**

God sends us with hope - not in what we already know but in things yet perceived. Unsatisfied by crumbs of justice, we seek the abundance of God's promises. We join the whole of creation in dreaming of a world renewed, of life flourishing with freedom, of collective liberation within and without. In the spirit of this hope, we depart from one another in holy anticipation. 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 & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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*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)