



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

February 4, 2024

Black History Month

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

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: Pulling back the veil, the love of God uncovers what is hidden.

ALL: Where evil has left its mark,

ONE: wounds fester, untended.

ALL: Roots of destruction still reach deep.

ONE: But God strengthens the weary and steadies those who are afraid.

ALL: Divine Truth is a balm.

ONE: Before healing, there must be honesty.

ALL: Before repair, a reckoning.

ONE: Let us welcome what is needed to restore what has been broken.

***OPENING HYMN**

If It Had Not Been for the Lord

TFWS #2053

**(Refrain) If it had not been for the Lord
on my side, tell me where would I be,
where would I be.**

**If it had not been for the Lord on my
side, tell me where would I be, where
would I be.**

**2. He never left me all alone; he gave the
peace and joy I'd never known. He
answered when I knelt to really pray,
and in vict'ry the Lord brought me
his way, so (Refrain)**

WORDS: Margaret P. Douroux, MUSIC: Margaret P. Douroux; © 1980
Margaret P. Douroux; CCLI 2815228

**1. He kept my enemies away; he let the
sunshine through a cloudy day. He
rocked me in the cradle of his arm
when he knew I had been battered
and scorned, so (Refrain)**

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENT

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

At the Table

Bobbi Thompson



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code.

***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*)

God of Hope, you have not left us powerless before pain. Not ours. Not our neighbors. Not that of the groaning earth. With your help, we need not be afraid to confront and be confronted by the truth of what is, what has been, and what may become. Bless these offerings, that they may be devoted to faithful practices of care wherever they are needed most. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Hush! Somebody's Callin My Name arr. by Brazeal Dennard

Joe Stevenson, Tenor, Soloist

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Indigo Kerr

Did you not know?

Have you not heard?

Was it not told to you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

God sits above the vaulted roof of the world, and its inhabitants look like grasshoppers! God stretches out the skies like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent for mortals to live under!

God reduces the privileged to nothing and throws the rulers of the earth into chaos. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root on earth, than God blows on them and they wither, and a storm wind sweeps them away like chaff.

“To whom can you liken me? Who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and ask yourself who made these stars, if not the One who drills them like an army, calling each by name? Because God is so great in strength, so mighty in power, not a single one is missing.

How can you say tribe of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, “My destiny is hidden from God, my rights are ignored by my God?”

Do you not know? Have you not heard? God is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. This God does not faint or grow weary; with a depth of understanding that is unsearchable.

God give strength to the weary and empowers the powerless.

Young women may grow tired and weary, young men may stumble and fall, but those who wait for God find a renewed power:

they soar on eagles' wings,

they run and don't get weary,

they walk and never tire.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

(adapted from Discipleship Ministries and *enfleshed*: liturgy that matters)

Leaders: Rev Tom Robinson, Maureen Taylor, Rev. Paul Perez

The Great Thanksgiving for Black History Month

ONE: The Holy One be with you

ALL: And also, with you

ONE: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God

ONE: Let us give thanks to God

We give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Holy One, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When human cruelty reared its ugly head,
you sustained your people
and made it possible for us to survive
the middle passage,
auction blocks,
whipping posts
and forced labor.

You softened the hearts of many
who worked in secret on our behalf
You lifted our heads with the message
that God sides with the oppressed
and delivers the captives.
You strengthened our hands
to struggle for justice and freedom

And so,
with your people on earth
and the generations past and to come
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy One, God of justice and love,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of justice and love.
Hosanna in the highest.**

ONE: Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ,
By his life and example he taught us
that it was possible to love our neighbors
and live together as family

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

“This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ was birthed among us.
Christ died among us.
Christ rises again among us.**

ONE: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Give us a taste of resurrection hope that lasts through even the most challenging of time. In collective longing for a taste of your Kin-dom on earth, we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

**ALL: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory for ever.**

Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Communion Kum Ba Yah,

arr. by Bret Rhoades and
Steve Kupferschmid

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we recognize the ways you still make yourself vulnerable to us today. In gratitude for a taste of your Kin-dom, may our discipleship shape us into fierce protectors of the vulnerable, give us courage to practice our own vulnerability, and help us to honor the sacredness of our need for one another. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

UMH #723

1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) **Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

2. On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *(Refrain)*

3. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Robert Lowry, 1864; MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1864; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

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

As we face together the challenges and possibilities of this era, may we remember, the love of God is attentive, not avoidant. Patient, but not passive. It is biased towards justice, urging and luring and drawing all life towards liberation. The love of God will be known through those that practice care, manifest courage, and move us honestly and humbly, together, toward freedom from evil. May it be so among us, as the Spirit companions us with peace.

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION



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. 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
Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager
Yvette Meadow, Receptionist
Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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)