



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday After Epiphany

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

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

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)

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This body of Christ is a holy collection of lives and stories.

ALL: Braided into each other, the one is made of the many.

ONE: This body, God has woven together:

ALL: That we may find our hope in each other.

That we may hold grief in community.

That we may remember no life is disposable.

ONE: By the Spirit, we are made one body..

Joined together, let us seek the flourishing of all.

*OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI2NECLnIJA>

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconness Anne Hillman

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator of all, though you have shaped us as an ecosystem, we are surrounded by illusions of individualism. Resources are privatized. People suffer in isolation. Even joy is hoarded. May we be a community brave and vulnerable enough to live otherwise, that we may become so much more together than we could ever be alone. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

To say that we are one body means this: everyone has a particular role to play, everyone is essential, everyone is connected by the threads of life and love. May we repent from our actions that betray these truths. And may we celebrate the grace that calls us back to right-relationship with the whole of things. With thanks, let us bring our offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Spirit of Life, with awe and thanks we bring our gifts. Bless them to the trees that help us breathe. Bless them to the land that holds us. Bless them to the wellbeing of creatures great and small. Make us good siblings to all your beloved life forms that enable this body, our bodies, the earth's body, every body to be nourished and alive. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CENTERING HYMN

The Servant Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIhxxhPOwfc>

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

from the Inclusive Bible

The body is one, even though it has many parts, all the parts – many though they are – comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. And that Body is not one part; it is many.

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” does that make it any less a part of the body? If the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body”, would that make it any less a part of the body? If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our sense of smell? Instead of that, God put all different parts into one body on purpose. If all the parts were alike, where would the body be?

They are, indeed, many different members but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,” any more than the head can say to the feet, “I do not need you.”

And even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable. We honor the members we consider less honorable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety which the more presentable do not need. God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to the lowly members, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy.

You, then, are the body of Christ and each of you is a member of it. Furthermore, God has set up in the church, first, apostles; second, prophets, third, teachers; then miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators and those who speak in tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles or have the gift of healing? Do all speak in tongues, or do all have the gift of interpretation of tongues?

Set your hearts on the greater gifts.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

We Are the Church Together

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CLOSING HYMN

Shalom, Shalom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwS66IIZ2lk>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Thanks be to God for every individual body that makes this shared body so full of wonder. In Christ, it is declared: Every body is a good body. Every body is worthy of protection. Every body holds divine wisdom. In our shared and sacred power, we are sent to go and make it so – to build together communities of care and justice, where every body is cherished and safe. God in peace, Amen.

Central United Methodist Church

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