



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 26, 2021  
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

## 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: Everything is held in the Memory of God –

**ALL: Our childhoods, our dearest connections, our deepest pain.**

ONE: Everything is held in the love of God - that which feels broken beyond repair, that which is healing.

**ALL: the hard-earned and gritty flourishing.**

ONE: Everyone is held in the Great Web of Connection –  
Our thriving is bound up in one another's.

**ALL: Let us gather in the Spirit of Interdependence.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH #577

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kin-dom's goal, let us miss thy kin-dom's goal.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907; Words by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs; CCLI2815228

# ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**Living Christ, you protect young people fiercely. If we are young, may we feel deeply your delight in us just as we are. If we are no longer young, may we live in a way that honors our truest childhood self. Thank you for the open-heartedness of children and the creative power of adolescents. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Beloveds, with systems of violence like vines at our feet, the Love of God remains steady within and around us. Let us participate in the Gospel story by loosening the hold of systems that trip us and by being Love to each other. Let us bring our offerings to God and each other that it may be so.

## 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. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of compassion and courage, we dedicate our offering to work that honors young people – young people who need access to healthcare including reproductive health and mental health care, young people who endure spiritual or religious violence, and young people who bear the emotional and physical brunt of climate collapse. May our collected funds manifest in liberation where they are needed the most and honor future generations. Amen.

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## HYMN

*Christ, Listen to Your Children Praying*

TFWS #2193

**Christ, listen to your children praying,  
Christ, send your Spirit in this place;  
Christ, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

WORDS: Ken Medema; MUSIC: Ken Medema; © 1973 Hope Publishing Co., CCLI2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9:38-50

The Inclusive Bible

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to expel demons, and we tried to stop it since this person was not part of our group.”

Jesus said in reply, “Don’t try to stop it. No one who performs a miracle using my name can speak ill of me soon thereafter! Anyone who is not against us is with us. The truth is, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not go without a reward.

Rather than make one of these little ones who believe in me stumble, it would be better to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck.

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It would be better to enter Life crippled than to have hands and go into Gehenna, where the fire never goes out. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter Life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It would be better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be drawn into Gehenna, where the worm never dies, and the fire never goes out.”

“Everyone will be salted with fire.

“Salt is good. But if salt loses its flavor, how can you make it salty again?

“Have salt in yourselves and live in peace with one another.”

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

Go Forth for God

UMH #670

**1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace, in God's good Spirit daily to increase, till in the kin-dom we see face to face.**

**3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the good, be urgent for the right; render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with his light.**

**2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love. strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak; help the afflicted, richly from above God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.**

**4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's people every day and hour, and serving Christ, our every gift employ, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.**

WORDS: John R. Peacey, 1975; MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; harm. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1940, alt.; Words by permission of Mildred E. Peacey; CCLI2815228

**BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

May you, child or child within,  
feel seen, heard, cherished and celebrated.  
May you go forth in childlike wonder;  
infused with possibility and connected with play.  
May we follow the path of the Living Christ –  
co-creating a world where young ones  
may live free from fear and full of delight. Amen.

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**Central United Methodist Church**

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