



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 7, 2021

All Saints Day

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: Hurricanes and floods and environmental havoc;

ALL: Drones and IEDs and handguns;

ONE: Cancer and heart disease and Ebola;

ALL: Poverty and injustice and oppression.

ONE: The ways of death in this world are many.

ALL: The words of death surround us.

ONE: The fear of death envelopes us.

ALL: But we come now to hear a different Word,

ONE: A true Word

ALL: A life-giving Word.

ONE: We are here on Isaiah's mountain

ALL: Where tears are wiped away,

ONE: Where a banquet table has been set,

ALL: Where death has been swallowed up forever.

ONE: We do not fully understand it.

ALL: We may not fully believe it.

ONE: And yet here it is:

ALL: The power of Christ's life within us and among us. So let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation!

***OPENING HYMN**

For All the Saints (Adapted from UMH #711)

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest; who, to the world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine; we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our faithful lives entwined. Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. You were their rock, their refuge and their might; You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, then hearts are brave again and faith grows strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Still may our people, faithful, true and bold, live as the saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a glorious crown of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

ONE: Our lives are full of mistakes and errors – places where we follow self-generated idols instead of the One True God. We are not alone in these mistakes – all of those who have come before us also were plagued with temptation and sin. Let us come before God, just as generations of believers have done and pray for God's forgiveness and grace.

ALL: Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, and even to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you. Hold us, dear One – comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving our errors, especially the ones that we don't share with any but you. Here now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.

A TIME OF SILENCE

ONE: Friends, hear the good news! Though thousands upon thousands of our ancestors did not follow God's ways perfectly, we have hope in the one who did! Jesus, a man of a particular people in a particular time, taught through his words and deeds that God has already forgiven us. Therefore, we and all who come before us are rightly known as saints – the holy ones of God! Thanks be to God for God's mercy, grace and love.

ALL: Amen!

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN**

Marching to Zion

UMH #733

1. Come, we that love our God, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. *(Refrain)*

3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

4. Then let our songs abound and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuels ground, we're marching through Emmanuels ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. *(Refrain)*

2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly One, but Children of the heavenly One, may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707; refrain by Robert Lowry, 1867; MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1867; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON *Hebrews 12: 1-2a*

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. George Covintree

NAMING OF THE SAINTS

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn of Promise

UMH #707

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

WORDS: Natalie Sleeth, 1986; MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986; © 1986Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI2815228

2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. George Covintree

Central United Methodist Church

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