



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 10, 2021
20th 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: Come and worship! The Spirit of the Living God calls us to gather.

ALL: Together, we will become seekers of justice.

ONE: Imagine, God making the impossible possible through us.

ALL: Together, we can en flesh the dreams of God.

ONE: A world without hunger; without poverty, without exploitation.

ALL: Together, we can give up that which destroys and choose that which sets free.

ONE: Let us worship the One who transforms the world.

*OPENING HYMN

Guide My Feet

TFWS #2208

1. **Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race, for
I don't want to run this race in vain!**

4. **I'm your child...**

5. **Search my heart...**

2. **Hold my hand...**

6. **Guide my feet...**

3. **Stand by me...**

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual
harm. by Wendell Whalum; Harm. © Estate of Wendell Whalum;
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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God of justice, will you draw near? Whether we struggle to pay our bills, to feed our children, to find work that sustains, or to live ethically in this complicated world, you promise us there is Good News for us. Set us free from stories and systems that destroy and set us on a path towards one another. Give us hearts that are gracious and fill us with zeal for justice until together we birth a new world free of exploitation of labor; of bodies, of the land, and of the life you intend for us. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jesus calls us not to simply give a portion of what we have but to choose an entirely different way of relating with each other where what belongs to one belongs to all. With hope and trust that God can shape us into a community of radical love, justice and hospitality, let us bring our offerings to God and one another.

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

Holy One, may your hand of justice sweep over your church, this country and ever family, drawing us away from that which corrupts and towards a new world where resources are shared, reparations are made, and all life is able to thrive. Through these gifts and the offerings of our lives in service to you, may it be so. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

Make Me a Servant

TFWS #2176

**Make me a servant, humble and meek, Christ let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

WORDS: Kelly Willard; MUSIC: Kelly Willard; © 1982 Willing Heart Music admin. by Maranatha! Music c/o The Copyright Co.; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:17-31

The Inclusive Bible

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?” Jesus answered, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: No killing. No committing adultery. No stealing. No bearing false witness. No defrauding. Honor your mother and your father.”

The other replied, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood.”

Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, “There is one thing more that you must do. Go and sell what you have and give it to those in need; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me.”

At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property, became crestfallen and went away sadly.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, “How hard it is for rich people to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples could only marvel at these words. So Jesus repeated what he had said: “My children, how hard it is to enter the realm of God!” It is easier for a camel to pass through the Needle’s Eye gate than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples were amazed at this and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible – but not for God. With God, all things are possible.”

Peter was moved to say to Jesus, “We have left everything to follow you!”

Jesus answered, “The truth is, there is no one who has left home, sisters or brothers, mother or father, children or fields for me and for the sake of the Gospel who won’t receive a hundred times as much in this present age – as many homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children and property, though not without persecution – and, in the age to come, everlasting life.

“Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Jim Bakker was Wrong

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CLOSING HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

(adapted from UMH #396)

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend; I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

3. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too. And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!

2. O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, murmurs of self will! Speak to reassure me to hasten or control! O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!

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BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Jesus calls us to leave every commitment we have to security and follow the way of justice in community. How hard it is to enter the Kingdom, but with God all things are made possible. In the company of the One who binds our lives together; go in peace. Amen.

Central United Methodist Church

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