



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

March 24, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Lent: Faithful Lent

Palm Sunday

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

The prelude and introit are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Hear from the Gospel according to Mark how Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Mark 11:1–11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’”

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them. “What do you mean by untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!

Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

ALL: Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest!

***OPENING HYMN & PROCESSION OF THE PALMS**

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

UMH #161

1. Rejoice, ye pure in heart; rejoice,
give thanks, and sing; your glorious
banner wave on high, the cross of
Christ your Kin. *(Refrain)*

3. Yes, on through life's long path, still
chanting as ye go, from youth to
age, by night and day, in gladness
and in woe. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) Hosanna! Hosanna! Rejoice,
give thanks and sing.

4. At last the march shall end; the
wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims
find their heavenly home,
Jerusalem the blest. *(Refrain)*

2. Your clear hosannas raise, and
alleluias loud; whilst answering
echoes upward float, like wreaths of
incense cloud. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Edward H. Plump0tre, 1865; MUSIC: Richard Wayne
Dirksen, 1974; Music © 1974 Harold Flammer, Inc.; CCLI
2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS



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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

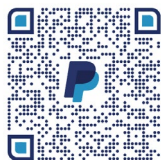
ANTHEM

Come and Sing Hosanna! by Pepper Choplin
Central Choir, Children's Choir and Keith Livermore, flute

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord* by Lloyd Lawson

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

FIRST LESSON: *Mark 14:1-2, 12-25*

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to be observed in two days' time. The chief priests and religious scholars were looking for some excuse to arrest Jesus and kill him. But they said, "Not during the festival, or the people may riot."

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the paschal lamb, the disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover supper for you?"

He directed two of the disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and you will come upon a man carrying a water jar. Follow him into a house he enters and say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks, "Where is my guestroom? I want to eat the Passover meal there with my disciples.'" 'Then you will be shown an upstairs room, spacious, furnished, with everything in order. That is the place you are to get ready for us.'"

Then the disciples went off. When they reached the city, they found it just as Jesus had told them and they prepared the Passover supper.

As it grew dark, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. They reclined at table, and in the course of the meal Jesus said, "The truth is, one of you is about to betray me—one who is eating with me."

They were very upset at these words, and one by one they said to him, "Surely it's not me!" Jesus replied, "It is one of you Twelve—one who dips into the dish with me. The Chosen One is going the way the scriptures foretell. But woe to the one by who the Chosen One is betrayed! It were better had that person never been born."

During the meal Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "Take

this and eat. This is my body.” He likewise took a cup, gave thanks and passed it to them, and they all drank from it. Jesus said to them, “This is my blood, the blood of the Covenant, which will be poured out on behalf of many. The truth is, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until the day I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Eat This Bread

UMH #628

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

WORDS: Robert Batastini and the Taize' Community, 1982; MUSIC: Jacques Bertier, 192; © 1984 Les Presses de Taize' France; by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

SECOND LESSON

Mark 14:32 –50, 53

Then they came to a place named Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, “Sit down here while I pray.” Jesus took along with him Peter, James and John. Then he began to be very distressed and troubled, and said to them, “My heart is filled with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

Jesus went a little further off and fell to the ground, praying that if it were possible this hour might pass him by. He said, “Abba, you have the power to do all things. Take this cup away from me. But let it be not my will, but your will.”

When Jesus returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Asleep, Simon? Could you not stay awake for even an hour? Be on guard and pray that you not be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Going back again, Jesus began to pray in the same words. Upon returning Jesus found them asleep once again. They could not keep their eyes open, nor did they know what to say to him.

He returned a third time and said, “Still sleeping? Still taking your rest? It will have to do. The hour is upon us—the Chosen One is being handed into the clutches of evildoers. Get up, let's go. Look! Here comes my betrayer.”

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd carrying swords and clubs; they had been sent by the chief priests, the religious scholars and the elders. The betrayer had arranged this signal for them: “Whomever I embrace is the one; arrest him and take him away under guard.” Judas went directly to Jesus, embraced him and said, “Rabbi!” At this, they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

One of the bystanders drew a sword and struck high priest's attendant, cutting off an ear. Jesus then said “Why have you come to arrest me with swords and clubs, as though I were a robber? I was within your reach daily, teaching in the Temple precincts, yet you never arrested me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.”

With that, all disciples deserted Jesus and fled. Then they led Jesus off to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and religious scholars gathered together.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Cloaked in the Dark

CLOAKED IN THE DARK

Jacque B. Jones

MORNINGSIDE
Bernadette Hoke



Cloaked in the dark, a night of be-trayal, sac - ri -



fice and de - nial. God, help us face temp - ta - tion a -



head; spare us the time of trial. trial.



- 1. Ju - bi - lant crowd, palms in their hands,
- 2. Ju - das, you sold in - no - cent blood;
- 3. Pe - ter the rock, fright - ened, con - fused;
- 4. Je - sus, you knew what was to come.



wel - come the king fore - told. Ri - ot - ing then,
 pas - sion gave way to hate. Shout your re - grets:
 bit - ter the lies you tell. Hear the cock crow,
 "Let this cup pass a - way." Still you o - bey,



D.C.

call for his death, e - vil e - vents un - fold.
 no one will hear; wis - dom has come too late.
 pierc - ing the dawn, pierc - ing your heart as well.
 scrip - ture ful - filled: "Your will, not mine this day."

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THIRD LESSON

Mark 15:1, 6-8, 15

As soon as it was daybreak the chief priests, the elders and religious scholars and the whole Sanhedrin reached a decision. They bound Jesus and led him away, and handed him over to Pilate,

Now whenever there was a festival, Pilate would release for them one prisoner—anyone they asked for. There was a prisoner named Barabbas who was jailed along with the rioters who had committed murder in the uprising. When the crowd came to ask that Pilate honor the custom,

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them, and, after having Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, v. 1 & 3

TFWS #2112

**1. Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
he had to walk it by himself. Oh,
nobody else could walk it for him;
he had to walk it by himself.**

**3. You must go and stand your trial;
you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for
you; you have to stand it by
yourself.**

WORDS: American Folk hymn; MUSIC: American folk hymn; CCLI 2815228

FOURTH LESSON

Mark 15: 22-25; 33-41

Then they brought Jesus to the site of Golgotha—which means “Skull Place.”

They tried to give him wine drugged with myrrh, but he would not take it. Then they nailed him to the cross and divided up his garments by rolling dice for them to see what each should take. It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him.

When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside and lasted until about three in the afternoon. At three, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, eloi lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” A few of the bystanders who heard it remarked, “Listen! He is calling on Elijah!” Someone ran and soaked a sponge in sour wine and stuck it on a reed to try to make Jesus drink, saying, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion who stood guard over Jesus, seeing how he died, declared, “Clearly, this was God’s Own!”

There were also some women present looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala; Mary, the mother of James the younger and Joses; and Salome. These women had followed Jesus when he was in Galilee and attended to his needs. There were also many others who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

When Sorrow Will Not be Consoled (to Tune of UMH #408)

1. When sorrow will not be consoled,
when heaven seems a fairy tale, when
life is like a shattered dream,
remember Christ felt every nail.
2. When joy in life is robbed by pain,
when sickness reigns and grief
invades when death defeats life all too
soon, believe in joy that never fades.
4. When hearts are sore and hope comes
hard, when unexpected turns bring
pain, when sadness seems too much to
bear, remember love can rise again.

Text: Daniel Charles Damon; Meter: 8.8.8.8. LM; Suggested tunes:
O WALY WALY (Gift of Love), MARYTON, QUEBEC (Hesperus);
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FIFTH LESSON

Mark 15:42-47

As it grew dark—it was Preparation Day, that is, the eve of the Sabbath—a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph from Arimathea, arrived. He was waiting for the reign of God, and he gathered up courage and sought an audience with Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have died so soon. He summoned the centurion and inquired whether Jesus was already dead. Upon learning that this was so, Pilate released the body to Joseph.,

Then, having brought a linen shroud, Joseph took the body of Jesus down, wrapped him in the linen and laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of rock. Finally, he rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb. Meanwhile, Mary of Magdala and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were looking on and observed where Jesus had been laid.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING MUSIC

What Wondrous Love Is This

Bobbi Thompson, Piano
Keith Livermore, Saxophone

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Margaret Reese, Director of Music

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 Waawiyataanong (“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)