



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

August 13, 2023

7th 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;

W&S = Worship & Song

### PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

### ACTS OF PRAISE

\***CALL TO WORSHIP** (enfleshed)

ONE: In the midst of all that tosses us to and fro, in the heart of what makes us most afraid,

**ALL: God gathers us together.**

ONE: Grounding us in our collective power, nurturing our faith, drawing upon wells of wisdom, ancient and new.

**ALL: Our Spirits are renewed in the presence of God.**

ONE: We take heart. We share the load together. We trust that fear will not overpower us.

**ALL: Courage is our inheritance; a legacy of the faithful.**

ONE: Thanks be to God!

### \*OPENING HYMN

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

TFWS #2151

1. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

Repeat Verse 1

1. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

3. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, when I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, when I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual; CCLI 2815228

# ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## ANTHEM

*E'ry time I Feel the Spirit*, by H.T. Burleigh

Roderick Reese

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Wade in de Water*, H.T. Burleigh

Roderick Reese

**\*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

### \*CENTERING HYMN

*Stand By Me*

UMH # 512

**1. When the storms of life are raging, stand by me; when the storms of life are raging stand by me. When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea, thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.**

**4. In the midst of persecution, stand by me, in the midst of persecution, stand by me. When my foes in war array undertake to stop my way, thou who saved Paul and Silas, stand by me.**

**3. In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me; in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me. When I've done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand, thou who knowest all about me, stand by me.**

WORDS: Charles Albert Tindley, ca. 1906; MUSIC: Charles Albert Tindley, ca. 1906; arr. by William Farley Smith, 1989; Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

**\*SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand)      *Matthew 14: 22-33*

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. Having sent the crowds away he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves which had been raised by the fierce winds.

At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. "It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear they began to cry out.

Jesus hastened to reassure them: "Don't worry, it's me! Don't be afraid!"

Peter spoke and said, "If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water."

"Come!" Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened. He began to sink, and cried out, "Save me!"

Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter. "You have so little faith!" Jesus said to him. "Why did you doubt?"

Once they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed great reverence declaring to Jesus, "You are indeed God's Own!"

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*More Mystical Than Miraculous*

Rev. Paul Perez

## ACTS OF COMMUNITY

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (enfleshed)

ONE: God is with us. I invite you to take a moment and close your eyes, draw your awareness to the presence of the divine in this space...and in each person Gathered here.

Draw your attention to your heart and imagine breathing in and out of your heart-opening it up to the divine with gratitude as we pray...

Loving one, close to us as breathing yet reaching into eternity, we give you thanks. Your outpouring of radical love has brought forth life among us. You have shown yourself to us as parent, creator, lover, and friend. In whatever image will bring us healing, you come to us.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all of creation, all of heaven and earth who forever sing this hymn:

**ALL: “Holy Holy Holy One, God of Love and Light. Heaven and Earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name, O God. Hosanna In the Highest.**

ONE: Blessed are you and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ. He showed us the ways of justice and mercy, turning the norms of society upside down. He welcomed and empowered the outsider and stood in resistance to the powers of oppression. Like so many among us today, Christ’s choice to live his truth and challenge oppression put him at risk.

And yet, on the night in which death, hatred, and betrayal would seek to have the last and lasting word, Christ remained centered in radical peace and showed us love embodied by washing the feet of his beloved’s and serving them at your table.

At the table he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread saying “take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks to you and said “drink from this all of you this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so in remembrance of these, your acts of love in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves and all of who we are in union with Christ’s offering as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

ONE: Pour out your holy spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the Body of Christ, that we might become interdependent with each other as Christ’s body, reflecting your diverse image in the world.

By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and in each other’s struggles, until we feast at your heavenly banquet. Through your beloved Jesus Christ, with the love the Holy Spirit, in your church- all love and devotion is yours, O God. Amen

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**SHARING BREAD & CUP**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Here I Am, God*

UMH #593

1. I, the God of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
*(Refrain)*

*(Refrain)* Here I am, God. Is it I, God? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, God, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the God of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to the. Whom shall I send?  
*(Refrain)*

3. I, the God of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Dan Schutte, 1981; MUSIC: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988; © 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR; CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

### BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed)

Rev. Paul Perez

Beloveds, take heart. Though evil works to limit our sense of possibility, And injustice threatens our dreams of collective flourishing, God remains as close as our own breath, making the impossible possible among us. In community, we have what we need to love each other and our neighbors well. Let us go and live what we believe.

### POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



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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.

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# Central United Methodist Church

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Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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

Margaret Reese, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadows, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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*This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425.*

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## **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)