



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

May 21, 2023

Ascension Sunday

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

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; WS=Worship & Song

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Stones of fear are rolled away.

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Walls of prejudice are broken down.

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Doubts are affirmed; questions are allowed.

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Those who were pushed aside are welcomed in.

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Life will never be the same again.

ONE: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

ALL: **Come, let us worship God.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Christ Has Risen*

TFWS 2115

1. **Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we
doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing; let
the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor Christ
is risen, God is here!**
2. **Christ has risen for the people whom
he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples huddled
in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't
be silenced by the tomb.**
3. **Christ has risen to companion former
friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation where their
faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer, they
expect no hopeful sign
til Christ ends their conversation,
breaking bread and sharing wine.**
4. **Christ has risen and forever lives to
challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been
evidence of transformation in which
God is known and seen.**

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MOMENT Arthur Park

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

ONE: Siblings in Christ; Through the sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

(Pastor addresses parents)

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

PARENTS: I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

PARENTS: I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace and promise to serve him in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, races, sexual orientations and gender identities?

PARENTS: I do.

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

PARENTS: We will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

CONGREGATION: We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this person now before you in your care.

CONGREGATION: With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround him with a community of love and forgiveness that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you let them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to God, all the earth, tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare God's works to the nations, God's glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and Rhett who is do receive it.

All praise to you, Eternal God, through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rhett Andrew Zundel, I baptize you in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer.
Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

Through baptism, you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything god may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION WITH ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Says the Psalmist, "I will meditate on your word day and night."

ALL: We say, "Day and night? Get real!"

ONE: The Psalmist says, "I will seek out your will, and focus my eyes on your ways."

ALL: We say, "I'll say a quick prayer."

ONE: David sings, "On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will think.

ALL: We rarely think of God's glory and too often forget the wonder of God's work all around us.

ONE: Jeremiah reminds us, "The patient love of God is forever. God's mercies never end, they are new every morning. Great is God's faithfulness."

ALL: And we say, "Thank you, God, for never giving up on us. Help us to turn to you to find truth and peace and joy." Amen.

ANTHEM

Sometimes I Hear God's Music

by Joseph Martin, words by Paul Williams

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Here's what I believe:

I believe night always gives way to dawn. I believe war always gives way to peace.

I believe death is always shattered by life.

Here's what I believe:

I believe God is doing a new thing. Every minute of every day. God is at work, around us and within us.

For the homeless, a place to live.

For the hungry, a feast.

For the thirsty, a cup of cold, clear water that runneth over.

For the weary, rest.

For the lonely, a friend.

For the sick, healing and wholeness.

Here's what I believe.

Every minute of every day, God is making all things new, giving and giving and giving again.

And you are called, we are called to be a part of God's work of generosity.

You are called to give, to surrender your time, talent, and treasure to this God-work of making all things new. You are called to give. We are called to give. I invite you to the offering.

OFFERTORY

Rise UP and Shine

Arranged by Austin Lovelace

***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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving God, with this money, make a whole new world. With these gifts, help make real what your prophets declare, that mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

With these people, help make a world where everyone is loved, a world where justice and compassion roll down like a mighty stream, a world where everyone has warm food, cool water, healthcare, and friends – a world where death is no more, where mourning and crying and pain are no more. Do it now, God, in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray, Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CENTERING HYMN** *Day of Arising*

(Tune: UMH 145)

**1. Day of arising, Christ on the roadway,
unknown compassion walks with his
own.**

**When they invite him, as fades the
first day,
And bread is broken, Christ is made
known.**

**2. When we are walking, doubtful and
reading,
Blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us ever awaiting
our invitation: Stay do not part.**

**3. “Lo, I am with you,” Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ’s promise, this is
Christ’s sign:
when the church gathers, when bread
is broken,
there Christ is with us in bread and
wine.**

**4. Christ our companion, hope for the
journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts
burning
that all creation with you may rise.**

Words © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien

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ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 1:6-14

The Inclusive Bible

While meeting together they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?”

Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. “You Galileans – why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you – this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a mere Sabbath’s walk away. Entering the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying – Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James ben-Alphaeus; Simon, a member of the Zealot sect; and Judah ben-Jacob. Also in their company were some of the women who followed Jesus, his mother Mary, and some of Jesus’ sisters and brothers. With one mind, they devoted themselves to constant prayer.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Wait!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CLOSING HYMN**

Be, Still, My Soul

Adapted from UMH 534

1. Be still, my soul; for God is on your side;

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

Leave to your God to order and provide:

in every change God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul! your best eternal friend

Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul; for God will undertake

to guide the future days as in the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be clear at last.

Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know

how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

3. Be still, my soul; the hour will soon be here

when we shall be with God whom we adore,

with disappointment gone, no grief nor fear,

sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.

Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,

all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ONE: As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

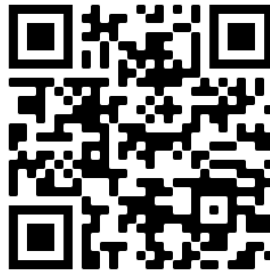
ALL: As people of faith we now return to the world.

ONE: Go out to share the story of faith,
the story of life, with the world around you.

**ALL: We share the faith in word and in deed,
in speech and in action.**

ONE; As you go out to give a living witness,
as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world,
go knowing that God goes with you,
sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.



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.

**Central United Methodist Church
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www.centralumchurchdetroit.org**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Maggie Reese, Music Director

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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 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)