



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 27, 2022  
First Sunday of Advent



## 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: We are entering a time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas.

**ALL: Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again**

ONE: In the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives

**ALL: That we need to prepare for it. We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born.**

ONE: Welcome to this tiny corner of a harsh and dark world.

**ALL: Together, let us practice being read in the faith that Christ will come.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH #211

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2. **O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)**

3. **O come, O come, great Lord of might, and to thy tribes of Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)**

4. **O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. (Refrain)**

Words: 9<sup>TH</sup> CENT. Latin; trans. St. 1, 3, 5ab *The Hymnal*, 1940, st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986; MUSIC: 15<sup>th</sup> cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854; sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. St. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict; CCLI 2815228

# ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: In God's house, everyone is welcome – Those who seem like they have it all together, And those who feel like their world is falling apart. No matter who we are, there's room for us here. With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives. Let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

**ALL: But we say, "Our lives are too messy."**

ONE: You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

**ALL: But we say, "It's too risky to hope."**

ONE: You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

**ALL: But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."**

ONE: God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

**ALL: Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**

ONE: Help us remember, today and tomorrow,

**ALL: There's room for every story. Amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Family of faith, we who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, "There's room for you here." From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found and welcomed. Thanks be to God!

**ALL: Amen.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Mystic and community spiritual advisor, Julian of Norwich, lived in a time that felt like the world was ending. Extraordinary floods, a horrific plague, and persistent violence made her landscape not unlike our own. During this time, she wrote: Where do we begin? Begin with the heart. Beloveds, let us begin with our hearts—touching it for wisdom and compassion, that, amidst a rattling world, we might build structures of Love. Let us bring forth our offerings that it may be so.

## 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.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Mysterious Peace, root our gifts in the Ways of Love. When we feel distracted, focus our hearts on the everyday practice of the fruits of the spirit. When we scramble for hope, ease our bodies into the flow of your grace. Ground our offerings in these intentions, that all manner of things may be well. Amen.**

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

### \*CENTERING HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

UMH #196

**1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kindom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744; MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906 CCLI2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*GOSPEL READING *Matthew 1:1-17*

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible

An account<sup>[a]</sup> of the genealogy<sup>[b]</sup> of Jesus the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, <sup>4</sup> and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup> and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>8</sup> and Asaph<sup>[e]</sup> the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,<sup>[f]</sup> and

Amos<sup>[g]</sup> the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.<sup>[h]</sup>

<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah,<sup>[i]</sup> fourteen generations.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

*There's Room for Every Story*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Through the Ages*

(Tune – Away in a Manger)

**1. Oh down through the ages and generation. From God in the garden to Jesus the son. Each story was woven, each one has a place within the great tapestry telling God's grace.**

**3. And still through the ages our stories will find belonging in God's story of humankind from God in the garden to eternity we're woven together as one tapestry.**

**2. From Abraham, Isaac and Israel's line how Rahab and Ruth and Bathsheba survived from exile in Egypt to Babylon for Christ's lineage shows how complex stories are.**

Lyrics :©Anna Strickland, 2021, Commissioned by A Sanctified art, LLC. Free for congregational use.  
Tune: James R. Murray, 1887; CCLI2815228

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation, God has been by our side.

From generation to generation, we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

May it be so. 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.**

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**Central United Methodist Church  
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422  
[www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://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, Interim Music Director

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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*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)