



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

January 15, 2023

Martin Luther King 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.

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**

(written by Britney Win Lee)

ONE: Calling all those partaking in a resurrected life, who have known a death that did not kill them.

**ALL: Come those with very little left to lose and those holding most things loosely but love. We need you.**

ONE: Come all who are almost indifferent and undone, who are wielding disappointment as vigor.

**ALL: Come those who fell asleep in the soul's dark night but have awakened with a heart full of hope. We need you.**

ONE: Come with your words – old, eaten, and new. Come, though uncertain about where it's all headed.

**ALL: Come with your aching need to be heard and you who are new to the listening. We need you.**

ONE: Come resolved to creatively find third ways. Come committed to not rushing out of tension.

**ALL: Come with eyes unwilling to overlook injustice and a heart unwilling to forgo celebration. We need you.**

**ONE: Come ragamuffin, radical, rebel, repressed. Come you who were wrong and willing to say it.**

**ALL: Come refusing to deny the stories of your people. Come with the assurance of God's grace as your guide. We need you.**

**ONE: Come marchers, intercessors, artists and prophets. Come newcomers and those who have tried, tried again.**

**ALL: Get close, get close, get closer now. Draw near, ask questions, sing songs, take steps. We need you together.**

**ONE: And together, we'll be patient and mercifully kind – Not envying, boasting, prideful or rude.**

**ALL: Not selfish, short-fused, score-keeping, or spiteful but rejoicing in the goodness of what's to be shared. We need you. We need you together.**

**ONE: Because together the movement keeps going. Sound the alarm because love cannot fail.**

**ALL: Come resisters, revolutionaries, the meek who inherit the earth. There will indeed be a story to tell.**

**ONE: And it is this: When the Light was threatened, all God's people said, "Let's go."**

**ALL: Let's go!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

UMH #519

**1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.**

**2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God; true to our native land.**

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921; © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co.; renewed; CCLI 2815228

# ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## AFFIRMATION

**I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around us.**

**I refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war and injustice.**

**I believe those around me are my brother and my sister.**

**I believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed.**

**I believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to it.**

**This means I seek to reject revenge and retaliation.**

**I remember, "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can."**

(drawn from the writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. It was compiled by Abigail Reichard.)

## ANTHEM

*Dream a Dream* by Ed Robertson

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or wish for something bigger and better. And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when placed in God's hands. And so, you are invited to bring your "little" and watch how God can do great things to bless the entire community.

## OFFERTORY

*Total Praise* by Richard Smallwood

## \*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

**ONE:** God, we have acknowledged our weaknesses and our failed attempts at creating a just world for all, even with the best of intentions. We are ever cognizant of our limitations but continue to dream the impossible because of our faith in your power. And so, we dedicate our lives to changing the "normalcy" that continues to plague our communities and society.

**ALL:** **The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that recognizes the dignity and worth of all of God's children. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that allows judgment to run down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy of brotherhood and sisterhood, the normalcy of true peace, the normalcy of justice.**

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

### \*CENTERING HYMN

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

UMH #474

(Martin Luther King, Jr.'s favorite hymn)

**1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light; (Refrain)**

**3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand; (Refrain)**

WORDS: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932;  
© 1938 Hill & Range Songs, renewed Unichappell Music, Inc.; CCLI  
2815228

*(Refrain)* **Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall; (Refrain)**

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Amos 5:18-24*

Val Ogbonnaya

You who wish for the Day of YHWH to come – why do you want it? What will the Day of YHWH mean to you? It will be a day of darkness, not light! It will be like running from a lion only to meet a bear, or like getting home safe at last, only to get bitten by a snake hiding in the corner!

Rest assured: The Day of YHWH will be darkness, not light. It will all be gloom, without a single ray of light. I despise and reject your feasts! I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies! When you offer me burnt offerings, I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle!

Spare me the racket of your chanting! Relieve me of the strumming of your harps! Instead, let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### MESSAGE

*Prophets Aren't Popular*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*We Shall Overcome*

UMH #533

1. **We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday! Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday!**
2. **We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand someday! Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we'll walk hand in hand someday!**
3. **We shall all be free. We shall all be free. We shall all be free someday! Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall all be free someday!**

4. **We shall live in peace. We shall live in peace. we shall live in peace someday. Deep in my heart, I do believe we shall live in peace someday.**
5. **The Lord will see us through. The Lord will see us through. The Lord will see us through some day. Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe the Lord will see us through some day.**

Words: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1986; Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI 2815228

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

God, we know we have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our star is cast,  
And we see you at work still creating a just world for all.  
We leave empowered by the fresh winds of change  
and the cream that is before us:  
to be God's hands and feet and heart in this world  
today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.

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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.**

**Central United Methodist Church**  
**23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422**  
**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

Maggie Reese, Interim Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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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)