



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

April 9, 2023

Easter 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

*Dawn Hymm*

Gerald Furi, Guest Organist

## INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*OPENING LITANY

ONE: What are you looking for?

**ALL: The light before dawn.**

ONE: What are you looking for?

**ALL: A reason to hope.**

ONE: What are you looking for?

**ALL: Joy after grief and flowers after winter.**

ONE: What are you looking for?

**ALL: A place to belong.**

ONE: What are you looking for?

**ALL: We are looking for the Messiah.**

ONE: Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

**ALL: Surely God is in this place.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today* adapted from UMH #302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high,  
Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens, and earth  
reply: Alleluia!

3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise.  
Alleluia! God has opened paradise,  
Alleluia!

2. Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death is now your sting?  
Alleluia! Dying once, Christ lives to  
save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O  
grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,  
Alleluia! Following our exalted Head,  
Alleluia! Made like Christ, like Christ  
we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the  
grave, the skies, Alleluia!

CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE**

ONE: Brothers and sisters 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. Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

### **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

ONE: On behalf of the whole Church, we ask you the following questions:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

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

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Sovereign and put your whole trust in God's grace and promise to serve Jesus, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, races, nations, sexual orientations, gender identities and economic situations.

**I do.**

### **RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.**

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

**I will.**

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

**I will.**

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

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these now before you in your care?

**With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround them with a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

## **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

Members of the household of God, I commend these people to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope and perfect them 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 and our service, 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.

Please welcome to our congregation:

Indigo and Rob Kerr

Justin Kirtley and Elise Hess

Eugenio and Rebecca Martin

Susan and Brian Gallagher

## **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

As a teenager, my older brother used to yell down the hall, "Mom! I can't find my tennis shoes!" My mother would lovingly holler back, "Have you checked your closet!" My brother would assure her that he had, and tell her they were nowhere to be found.

Like clockwork, my mom would then walk down the hall and like some parental magic trick, pull my older brother's shoes from his closet. The shoes were there the whole time. He just couldn't see them.

Friends, sometimes our relationship with God can feel a little bit like that. We seek after God. We swear that we're looking and yet so often we miss when the Divine is right under our noses. So let us pray together, knowing that our seeking has its limits, but God's love does not. Let us pray:

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of resurrection, we confess, like a dog with a bone, we run aimlessly. We chase our tails, looking for things that provide answers to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights. You meet us in the darkness before dawn, but we mistake you for the gardener. Forgive us for seeking after worldly things. Forgive us for forgetting to seek you. Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst. With hope and gratitude, we pray, amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

**ONE:** Family of faith, no matter how many times we lose sight of God, God never loses sight of us. We might spend our whole days seeking, but we are always found. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel, the good news proclaimed in resurrection:

**ALL:** What once was lost is found. We are held in God's loving embrace: forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Alleluia! Amen.

## ANTHEM

*Life is Born Again.* Words by Pamela Stewart, Music by Noel Purifoy

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Beloveds, we gather in hope because Love remains with us. Our Sacred task is to nurture it. To grow it. To call it forth in one another. To embody it in small and ordinary ways. In faith that the love we practice together is one way we bear witness to the living Christ, let us share what we have with God and one another.

## OFFERTORY

*Speak Words of Praise.* F. Dale Bengtson, Sean Catanese, Dhembe

## \*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

**Liberating Spirit, your persistent love frees us from all that would have us cower before evil. While forces of destruction intend to scatter us far from one another, you bind our hearts together in everlasting hope. Through these and all our offerings, bless our efforts to support one another and all our neighbors who are struggling in body, spirit, or material need. Keep us faithful, O God, to the tasks of your Kindom. Amen.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## \*CENTERING HYMN

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

UMH #304

**1. Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's  
choices; heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let  
us sing.**

**3. Every day to us is Easter, with its  
resurrection song. When in trouble  
move the faster to our God who rights  
the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the  
power of heavenly throngs.**

**2. Fear of death can no more stop us  
from our pressing here below. For our  
Lord empowered us to triumph over  
every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter  
people, let us sing.**

WORDS: William M. James, 1979; MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867;  
Words 1979 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI2815228

# ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jim Bull

Rabbouni, Teacher,  
We have spent the past six weeks asking questions.  
We have turned over every rock.  
We have shined a light in every dusty corner.  
We have opened blinds.  
We have wrestled with truth.  
We have sought after you.  
So on this Easter morning,  
bring wisdom to our seeking.  
Move through this room  
until the walls echo with the sound of alleluias.  
Roll back the stones that might prevent us from drawing closer to you.  
Calm our hearts.  
Say our names.  
Awaken us to your presence in our midst.  
We are here.  
We are listening.  
We are seeking after you.  
Alleluia. Amen.

## \*GOSPEL READING

*John 20:1-18* The Inclusive Bible

Jim Bull

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple – the one Jesus loved – and told them, “The rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Jesus!”

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciples outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn’t enter, but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn’t understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus’ body had lain.

They asked her, “Why are you weeping?”

She answered them, “Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don’t know where they have put the body.”

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. He asked her, "Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?"

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, "Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!" – which means "Teacher."

Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!'"

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. "I have seen the Teacher!" she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

*Who Are You Looking For?*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Up From the Grave He Arose*

UMH #322

**1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my  
Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus  
my Lord! (Refrain)**

**2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my  
Savior, vainly they seal the dead, Jesus  
my Lord! (Refrain)**

*(Refrain): Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he  
arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and lives forever, with his saints to  
reign. He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose.*

**3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my  
Savior; He tore the bars away, Jesus  
my Lord! (Refrain)**

WORDS: Robert Lowry, 1874; MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1874; CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

As you leave this place,

May God bless you in the seeking.

Seek out the hungry.

Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful.

Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,

go now in peace. Amen.

## **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Hallelujah Chorus* by George Frederick Handel

(Congregation is invited to come up and join the choir)

## **POSTLUDE**

*Festival Flourish on Christ Arose*



**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](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

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 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)