



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

October 22, 2023

21st Sunday After Pentecost

A Peculiar People: Abolition

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. W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

ONE: We gather in the presence of the Beloved One,

ALL: Insistent that we are a community of equals.

ONE: To all that stands in the way of right-relationship,

ALL: The spirit of Christ says "no more!"

ONE: God leads us in a better way:

ALL: No spirits of domination will last.

ONE: No barriers to welcome will stand.

ALL: God has already claimed us:

ONE: We are children of the Divine.

ALL: Each of us, no more, no less.

ONE: Praise God, who frees us to love one another.

29 We Gather Here in Christ Set Free

♩ = 50

1 We gath - er here in Christ set free to wor-ship with one heart.
 2 Here in this place each child is free to move and sing and shout.
 3 Here there is grace for ev - ery need, for God is all a - round.
 4 We do not cease our work of praise when time has come to leave.

Come, have no fear, for you will see you're wel-come as you are.
 We of - fer space to laugh and grieve, to ques-tion and to doubt.
 Di - verse in race, in life, in creed, our gifts of love a - bound.
 We seek the Spir - it all our days to live what we be - lieve.

Refrain

We gath - er here through love di - vine that wel-comes one and all.

We go to live by God's de - sign and fol - low Je - sus' call.

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

Steal Away African American Spiritual

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Augustus Williamson



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code.

***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**

O Freedom

TFWS #2194

**1. O freedom! O freedom! O freedom
over me. (Refrain)**

**6. There'll be praying, there'll be
praying, there'll be praying over
me. (Refrain)**

**(Refrain) And before I'll be a slave, I'd
be buried in my grave, and go home
to my God and be free.**

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American
spiritual; arr. by John Bell; Arr. © 1996 WGRG The Iona Community
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**3. No more weeping, no more weeping,
no more weeping over me. (Refrain)**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand)

Galatians 3: 23-28

Before faith came, we were under the constraint of the Law, locked in until the faith that was coming would be revealed. In other words, the Law was our monitor until Christ came to bring about our justification through faith. But now that faith is here, we are no longer in the monitor's charge.

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

A Peculiar People: Abolition

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

Woke Up Dis Mornin

Songs of Zion #146

1. Oh, I woke up dis morn-in' wid mah min', An'it was stayed, Stayed on freedom. Woke u dis morn-in' wid mah min', An' it was stayed, Stayed on freedom. woke up dis morn-in' wid mah min' An' it was stayed, Stayed on freedom. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.

3. Makes you love everybody with you min', when you keep it stayed, Stayed on Jesus. Makes you love everybody with you min', when you keep it stayed, Stayed on Jesus. Makes you love everybody with you min', when you keep it stayed, Stayed on Jesus Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.

2. Oh, I woke up dis morn-in' wid mah min', An'it was stayed, Stayed on Jesus. Woke u dis morn-in' wid mah min', An' it was stayed, Stayed on Jesus. woke up dis morn-in' wid mah min' An' it was stayed, Stayed on Jesus. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.

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BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

Let us go from here assured of the power of Christ in us: The power to rid ourselves of all that destroys. The power to celebrate the gifts of difference among us. The power to cease discrimination in our communities. God does not leave us to this work alone, but goes beside us, within us, and before us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



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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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

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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 Waawiyataanong (“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)