



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

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

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)

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God of Soulful Emotions,

ALL: Consciousness of the Disenfranchised,

ONE: Strength of the Collective—

ALL: We cry out to You for liberation!

ONE: The earth suffers under systems that brutalize—

ALL: We weep for the days we've toiled instead of rested.

ONE: We rage when Beloveds are not treated with tenderness.

ALL: Meet us in Divine Anger, Dynamic Spirit!

ONE: Meet us with mercy, Living Christ.

*OPENING HYMN

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less adapted from UMH #368

1. My hope is built on nothing less than
Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare
not trust this earthly frame, but wholly
lean on Jesus' name *(Refrain)*

3. Christ's oath and covenant and blood
support me in the rising flood; when
all a round my soul gives way, Christ
then is all my hope and stay. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) On Christ, the solid Rock, I
stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

4. When Christ shall come with trumpet
sound, oh, may I then in Love be
found, Dressed in God's righteousness
alone, fault less to stand before the
throne. *(Refrain)*

2. When shadows veil my Savior's face, I
rest upon unchanging grace; In every
high and stormy gale, my anchor holds
within the veil. *(Refrain)*

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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Redeeming One, every morning, we awake not knowing how our day will end. We trust God that all will be well. Children go off to day camps, camps, or their first day of driving alone, and we pray God, all through the day, they are safe. These are the things unseen and unknown that we have placed our faith in you to hold. They may be small, like dust, for you, but you hold our treasures and hearts, dear God. Where does the dust or our faith come from, and why? The Cosmos is one, and the other is hope. Amen

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Abraham reminds us that much faith and blind trust were put onto the God by the ancient Jews. Abraham and Sarah were two of them. When we were asked months ago to complete our pledge requests for this year, it was to meet or exceed last year's giving. That was our good faith pledge to Central. Central was like Abraham and Sarah looking into the distance in their belief that what happens today, next month, year, and long after they are gone will allow this church to continue to grow. Please come up with your tithes and offerings, and if you want to start electronic debit withdrawals, please call the church office.

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. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mysterious love may our offerings flow, uninhibited, towards justice. May the bereaved be consoled, the lonely be accompanied, and those who are downtrodden by systems of cruelty be defended. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Anika-Kafi Summers

*CENTERING HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness

adapted from UMH #140

**1. Great is your faithfulness, O God,
Creator, with you no shadow of
turning we see. You do not change,
your compassions they fail not; all of
your goodness for ever will be.
(Refrain)**

**2. Summer and winter, and springtime
and harvest, sun, moon, and the stars
in their courses above, Join with all
nature in manifold witness to your
great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
(Refrain)**

**(Refrain) Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness! Morning
by morning new mercies I see; All I
have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto
me!**

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace so
enduring, your own dear presence to
cheer and to guide. Strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand
beside. (Refrain)**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 15: 1-6 The Inclusive Bible

After these events, the word of YHWH came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." Abram said, "But my Sovereign, My God, what good are these blessings to me, so long as Sarai and I will die in disgrace? My only heir is a foreigner who lives in my household, Eliezer of Damasus. Since you have given me no offspring," Abram continued, "an attendant in my house will be my heir."

Then the word of YHWH came to Abram and said, "This person will not be your heir. Your heir will be of your own flesh and blood." Then God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants."

Abram believed YHWH, and God accounted it to Abram as righteousness.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

How Strong is Your Faith?

Anika-Kafi Summers

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Tom Robinson

*CLOSING HYMN

Lift Every Voice & 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 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 has 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.**

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BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Anika-Kafi Summers

Go forth as people of faith to stargaze at night,
Who aren't over-worried by dust in their homes
And who celebrate working together towards a better tomorrow.
Amen

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