



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

September 18, 2022

15th 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

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Savvy God

ALL: Clever God

ONE: Audacious God

ALL: Determined God

ONE: God who yells back at the rising storm

ALL: God who guards Her beloveds like a Mama Bear –

ONE: You do not ask politeness of your people

ALL: But to rattle the cages of oppression.

ONE: Come, let us worship God,

ALL: our Fierce Protector and our Steadfast Love.

***OPENING HYMN**

O God, to Whom We Sing

(Tune UMH# 61)

(From the book “A Singing Faith by Jane Parker Huber)

1. O God to whom we sing, reclaim our lives and bring, from death new birth, till folk of every shade, as creatures you have made, face futures unafraid, Bring peace on earth!

3. Peace-making God of life, forgive our death-dealing strife. Turn us around! Grant us fresh grace to be, through all eternity, yours for humanity, let love abound!

2. O God of work-place and home, Creator of shalom, within your care, as reconcilers we work for community wherever we may be, your love declare.

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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

UNISON PRAYER

Divine Agitator, you teach us how to prioritize people and this planet over a culture of politeness and respectability. For the sake of life. Flourishing. Justice. Infuse us with your Holy Courage and Racial Wisdom, Oh God, that we may shed shallow politeness and, instead, conspire towards soulful liberation and authentic solidarity. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we prepare to gather our offerings, we consider what we owe each other – our compassion, our showing up, our doing better when we know better, and our shared resources when we have abundance. Let us collect what we have that we might be accountable to one another in relationship and care. I invite you to the offering.

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**

Living Christ, we desire all people to be free – free from fear, free from punitive forms of punishment, free from soul-crushing debt, free from gender-based violence, free to make decisions about their own bodies, free to experience connection and belonging. We dedicate our offerings to collective freedom, spiritual and material. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

***CENTERING HYMN**

Christ, Be Glorified

(adapted from TFWS #2150)

1. In our lives, Christ, be glorified, be glorified. In our lives, Christ, be glorified today.

3. In your church, Christ, be glorified, be glorified. In your church, Christ, be glorified today.

2. In our homes, Christ, be glorified, be glorified. In our homes, Christ, be glorified today.

4. In your world, Christ, be glorified, be glorified. In your world, Christ, be glorified today.

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ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 16:1-13

(Common English Bible)

Jesus also said to the disciples, “A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. He called the manager in and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.’

The household manager said to himself, what will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I’m not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. I know what I’ll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses.

One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He said, ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred fifty gallons.’ Then the manager said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ He said, ‘One thousand bushels of wheat.’ He said, ‘Take your contract and write eight hundred.’

The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it’s gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. If you haven’t been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? If you haven’t been faithful with someone else’s property, who will give you your own? No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Student Loan Forgiveness?!!!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CLOSING HYMN**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

UMH #662

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's kin-dom and answer the call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

WORDS: Omer Westendorf; MUSIC: Welsh folk tune; harm. by Leland Sateren; Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.; harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion; CCLI 2815228

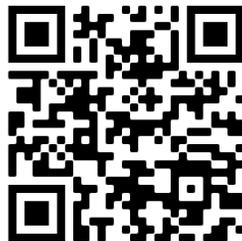
BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Because God guards the vulnerable like a Mama Bear guards her cubs, we, too, will be ferocious in the face of injustice.

Go in the company of the Holy Spirit who fills us with courage, fans the flames of our compassion, and leads us on paths of liberation. 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.

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
Bobbi Thompson, Interim Music Director
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent and Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425.