



## **Central United Methodist Church**

### ***A Reconciling Congregation***

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

March 29, 2026

## **Palm & Passion 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal, TFWS = The Faith We Sing

## **ACTS OF PRAISES**

### **PRELUDE**

Brandon Reeves

The Prelude and the Postlude are times for silent prayer and meditation.  
guided by some of our gifted musicians.

### **WELCOME**

*Today is the beginning of Holy Week, what the liturgical calendar calls Palm and Passion Sunday. It is a journey from the jubilant, playful and even a bit satirical street theater of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the heart break of Jesus consoling his beloveds with his final breaths.*

### **SUNDAY - JESUS MARCHES OUTSIDE OF JERUSALEM**

*Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, satirizing the pomp of a royal arrival. Waive your palms during the scripture and hymn and join the crowds in playfully protesting the absurdity of imperial power.*

**\*RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE**

(based on John 12:12-15)

The next day, the great crowd that had come for the Passover feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and went out to meet him. Jesus rode in sitting upon a donkey. The crowd shouted joyfully,

**“Hosanna!  
Blessed is the One who comes  
in the name of our God!”**

**ANTHEM**

*Come and Sing Hosanna* by Pepper Chopin

**GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**



**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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brandon Reeves

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

*We Sing Hosanna* by Jeremy Russell

**WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS**

(see insert)

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of Our God* by Lloyd Larson



**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.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## TURNING TOWARD HOLY WEEK

### THURSDAY - JESUS IS ARRESTED

#### \*SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 26:57-75*

Those who had seized Jesus led him off to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the religious scholars and elders have convened. Peter followed at a distance as far as the high priest's residence. Going inside, Peter sat down with the guards to await the outcome. The chief priests, with the whole Sanhedrin, were busy trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put him to death.

They discovered none, despite the many false witnesses who took the stand,

Finally, two came forward who stated, "This man has declared, 'I can destroy God's sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.'"

The high priest rose and addressed Jesus, "Have you no answer? What about this testimony leveled against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest then said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath, before the living God, whether or not you are the Messiah, the Firstborn of God?"

"You have said it yourself," Jesus replied. "But I tell you: soon you will see the Chosen One seated at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

At this the high priest his robes and said, "Blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? You yourselves have heard the blasphemy. what is your verdict?"

They responded, "He deserves death!" Then they spat at his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped Jesus, saying, "Play the prophet for us, Messiah! Who struck you?"

While this was happening, Peter was sitting in the courtyard. One of the attendants came over and said, "You were with Jesus the Galilean too, weren't you?"

But Peter denied it in front of everyone. He said, "I don't know what you're talking about!"

When Peter went out to the gate, another attendant saw him and said to those nearby, "This one was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again, he cursed and denied it: "I don't know him!"

A little while later, some bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You certainly are one of them! Even your accent gives you away!"

At that, Peter began cursing and swore, "I don't know the man!"

Just then a rooster began to crow, and Peter remembered the prediction Jesus had had: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." Peter went out and cried bitterly.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN**

*God of Freedom, God of Justice*  
**God of freedom, God of justice,  
you whose love is strong as death,  
you who saw the dark of prison,  
you who knew the price of faith:  
touch our world of sad oppression  
with your Spirit's healing breath.**

**Make in us a captive conscience  
quick to hear, to act, to plead;  
make us truly sisters, brothers  
of whatever race or creed:  
teach us to be fully human,  
open to each other's need.**

Text: Shirley Erena Murray  
From: "Hymns in Times of Crisis," The Hymn Society, 2016; CCLI 2815228

**FRIDAY - JESUS IS TORTURED & EXECUTED**

**\*SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 23:33-49*

Angela Bakeley

When they had reached the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus there—together with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Abba forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." Then they divided his garments, rolling dice for them.

The people stood there watching. The rulers, however jeered him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself—if he really is the Messiah of God, the Chose One!" The soldiers also mocked him. They served Jesus sour wine and said, "If you are really the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was an inscription above Jesus that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who hung there beside him insulted Jesus, too, saying, "Are you really the Messiah? Then save yourself—and is!"

But the other answered the first with a rebuke: "Don't you even fear God? We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this one has done nothing wrong!"

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory."

Jesus replied, "The truth is, today you'll be with me in paradise!"

It was about noon, and darkness fell on the whole land until three in the afternoon, because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two, and Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, "Abba, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Saying this, Jesus breathed for the last time.

The centurion who saw this glorified God, saying, "Surely this one was innocent." When the crowds that had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts and weeping. All the acquaintances of Jesus and the women who had come with him from Galilee stood at a distance, looking on.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN**

*When Sorrow Will Not Be Consoled*

When sorrow will not be consoled,  
when heaven seems a fairy tale,  
when life is like a shattered dream,  
remember Christ felt every nail.

When joy in life is robbed by pain,  
when sickness reigns and grief invades  
when death defeats life all too soon,  
believe in joy that never fades.

Give thanks for joys too briefly known,  
give thanks for nights in love's embrace,  
give thanks for days when life was full,  
remember God's redeeming grace.

When hearts are sore and hope comes hard,  
when unexpected turns bring pain,  
when sadness seems too much to bear,  
remember love can rise again.

Text: Daniel Charles Damon

From: "Hymns in Times of Crisis," The Hymn Society, 2016, CCLI 2815228

**SATURDAY - JESUS IS IN THE TOMB**

**\*SCRIPTURE**

*Matthew 27: 57-61*

When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea named Joseph, who had become a disciple of Jesus, came to request the body of Jesus; Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen and laid it in his own tomb, which had been hewn out of rock. Then Joseph rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. But Mary of Magdala and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MUSIC**

*What Wondrous Love is This?*

Brandon Reeves

# BENEDICTION

## BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

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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, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance Manager

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 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)