



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 28 2021

First Sunday of Advent

OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

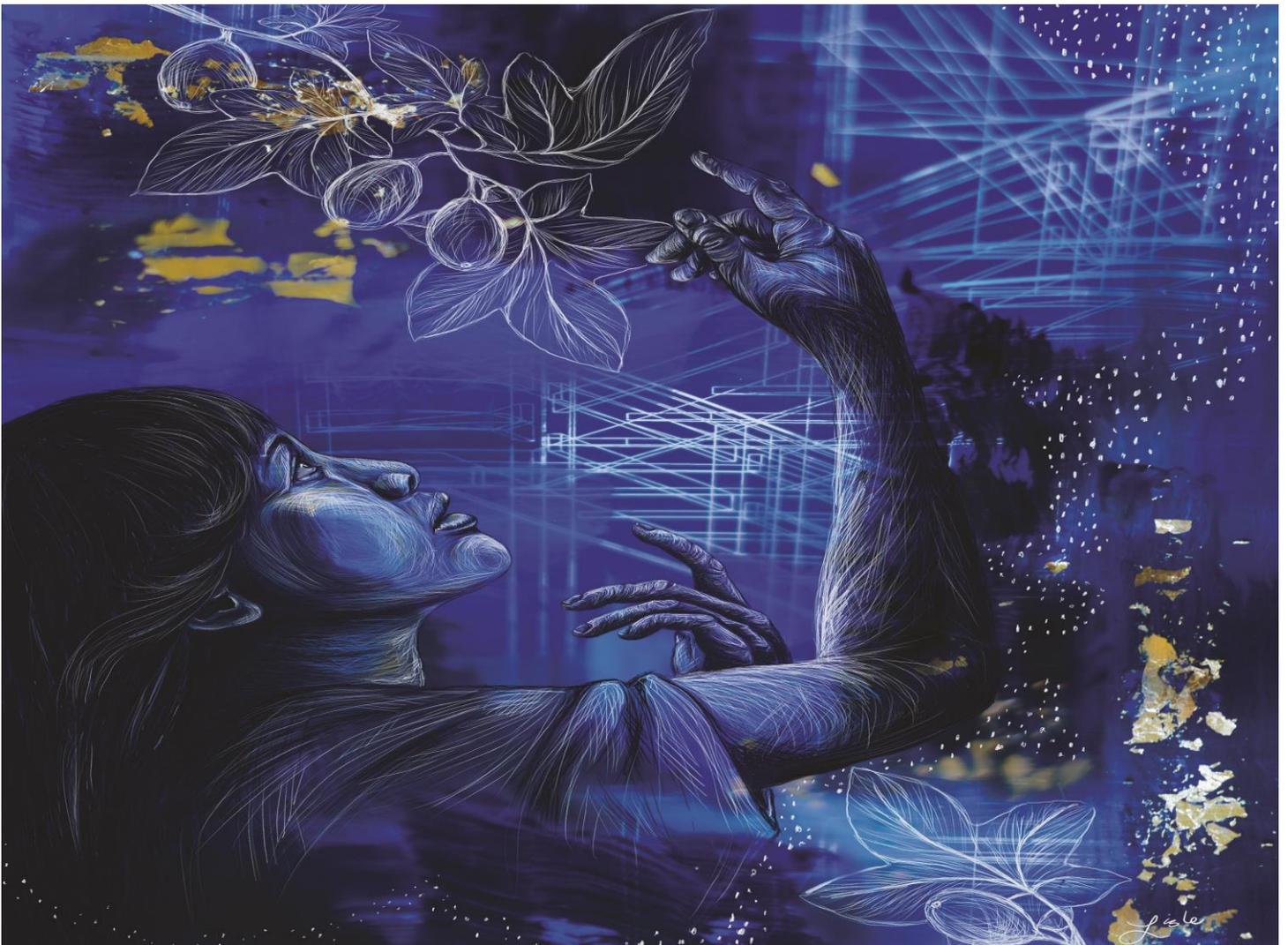
Central United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, age, ability, belief, or background, whether you are single or partnered, you are God's beloved and you are welcome here.

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



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: Can one be homesick for something you’ve never known?

ALL: We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.

ONE: Yes, we are homesick –

ALL: For joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.

ONE: We are homesick for the world God promises.

ALL: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

ONE: God is here. God is still creating.

ALL: Let us worship our Holy God.

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH #211

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)

3. O Come, O Come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

(Refrain) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

4. O Come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. (Refrain)

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

WORDS: 9th Cent. Latin; trans. St. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6tab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986; MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854; Sts. 1,3,5ab,6cd,7ab © 1940m 1943m renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. Sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Hope

ONE: We hope for a world where all are fed.

ALL: We hope for a world with more bridges than walls

ONE: We hope for a world with wide open doors.

ALL: We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

ONE: We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

ALL: We hope for a world where all people feel at home – in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.

ONE: We hope for that world.

ALL: We long for that world.

ONE: We are homesick for that world.

ALL: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

ONE: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

ALL: We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

ADVENT SONG

Sung to the tune of UMH #420

1. Kindle this flame of hope. May it burn bright and true. Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.

2. God's realm is our desire, where peace and justice reign. Heaven and earth combined as one, when Christ shall come again.

CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: When you're a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp, you call home and your parents come and get you. Sometimes, that's what love looks like. Love bails us out. In the same way, when we call upon God to confess that we've messed up, or forgotten something, or overlooked the truth, God answers with grace. God answers with love. So let us confess today, knowing that nothing could keep God from loving us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options every day – to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world.

Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

ALL: There is room for us in God's house and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Family of faith, it doesn't take long to see that we are not home yet. There are people who are hungry, oceans that are polluted, churches that are fading, walls that are growing. We are clearly not home yet.

So until we reach that promised day, until we make it home, giving what we can to make a better world matters. When we give our tithes and our offerings we help build God's home here. So with hopeful hearts, let us give.

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**

Holy God, we are homesick. We long for the day that you spoke of when swords will be beaten into plowshares, the lion will lie down with the lamb and justice will roll like waters. Until that holy day comes, take these gifts and use them to build that world here. We are hopeful. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CENTERING HYMN

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH #196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born
to set thy people free; from our fears
and sins release us, let us find our rest
in thee. Israel's strength and
consolation, hope for all the earth thou
art; dear desire of every nation, joy of
every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child
and yet a King, born to reign in us
forever, now thy gracious kin-dom
bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule
in all our hearts alone; by thine all
sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious
throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744; MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from The English Hymnal. 1906; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of the stars and God of our hearts – our days will pass but your words will last.

The earth might face but your words will last.

Our memories might blur but your words will last.

The grass will wither but your words will last.

The sky could go dark and your words would last.

So, as we listen today, help us to hold onto what will last.

Help us hold onto you.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 21:25-36

from the Inclusive Bible

“Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand.”

And he told them a parable, “Look at the fig tree, or any other tree. You see when they’re budding and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, know that the reign of God is near. The truth is, this generation will not pass away until all this takes place. The heavens and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on your guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence, drunkenness and worldly cares. That day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch, and to stand secure before the Chosen One.”

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

Homesick

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CLOSING HYMN

We Set Our Hope in Jesus (Tune UMH #303)

1. We set our hope in Jesus whose grace we have received. We trust that he will lead us as we roll up our sleeves. With great anticipation of what we're called to do, we join in celebration as God does something new.
2. We wonder at the struggles – the challenges we'll face. Like those who came before us, we'll need God's gift of grace. We'll take the yoke Christ gives us; we're ready to say "Yes!" For God in Christ has called us to preach and heal and bless.
3. We cannot stay in towers we think we deserve; for ministry that matters, we need to kneel and serve. We need the mud of mission, the grime of ministry, we're called to serve with daring as we roll up our sleeves.
4. Where youth are asking questions, where people live in pain, where strangers face unwelcome, where racist ways remain, where people need a message that heals and claims and frees – God, give to us your Spirit, as we roll up our sleeves.

Tune: Henry Thomas Smart, 1835; Text: Copyright ©2021 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins:

Comfort the homesick.

Open your doors to others.

Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed – so come back soon.

In the name of our Foundation – God, Spirit and Redeemer – go in peace. Amen.

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

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists