



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

May 7, 2023

Sixth Sunday After Easter

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

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: Today is a new day!

ALL: We come with the past behind us, and the future open. We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.

ONE: Christ is with us!

ALL: Christ is with us indeed!

***OPENING HYMN**

God is Here

UMH #660

1. **God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**
2. **Here are symbols to remind us of our life long need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence as in speech, here, in newness and renewal. God the Spirit comes to each.**
3. **Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.**
4. **Lord of all, of church and kindom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1978; MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941; Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.; music ©1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MOMENT

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

LITANY FOR THE CHURCH

(written by Sandra Maria Van Opstal)

ONE: God, you have shown us your ways of compassion and justice.

Forgive us for being so caught up in our own lives.

Forgive us for not having eyes to see and closing them when we don't want to see.

Forgive us for not having ears to hear and covering them when we don't want to hear.

Forgive us, for not knowing you, seeking you, and following you.

**ALL: Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image.
Revive your church.
Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.**

ONE: Jesus, you modeled sacrifice and love for neighbor.
Deliver us from our anemic and self-focused faith practices.
Deliver us from narcissism in our worship practices that center on us and not others.
Deliver us from fear that keeps us from taking risks in order to serve our neighbor.
Deliver us from apathy in our own hearts towards those at the margins.

**ALL: Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image.
Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.**

ONE: Holy Spirit, you promise to root, strengthen, and guide us.
Fill us with courage to speak out and speak up when we feel weak.
Fill us with assurance that you are working in ways we can't always see.
Fill us with power to act and love and be the church you are making us to be.
Fill us with the wisdom of a gentle dove and a shrewd serpent that we may be effective.

**ALL: Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image.
Revive your church.
Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.**

ONE: Jesus, you promised that you are coming back in your fullness to restore and renew.
Help us to be made new now, and at your full return.
Help us to confess together, repent together and hope together for the church.
Help us to live into the reality that we serve a God who will make wrong things right.
Help us point to the coming kingdom with our actions and lives.

**ALL: Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image.
Revive your church.
Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.**

ANTHEM

I'm goin' up Yonder by Walter Hawkins, arr. Martin Sirvatka

Roderick Reese, Soloist

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Just as God dwells in us, we dwell in God. We share space together in the life of God where all have their needs met and none go unnoticed. We live, too, in this world aching with hunger, economic injustice and housing inequity. In hopes of doing our part to embody the Kingdom among us in the here and now, let us bring what we have to God and each other.

OFFERTORY *This Do in Remembrance of Me* by John Hunnicut

*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

Incarnate One, there is no knowledge of you apart from each other. We confess that we often act as if it were not so. We search high and low for you while you wait for us in the face of our neighbors and the body of the earth. In all your many forms, you come to us with offerings and asks. May our gifts be a sign of our gratitude for every holy encounter – the ones recognized and the ones unnoticed. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CENTERING HYMN** *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. |

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-14 The Inclusive Bible

Mollika Biernat

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God’s house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me, that where I am, there you may be as well.

“You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

Thomas replied, “But we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, “I myself am the Way – I am Truth, and I am Life. No one comes to Abba God but through me. If you really knew me, you would know Abba God also. From this point on, you know Abba God and you have seen God.”

“Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip and still you don’t know me? Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God. How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’? Don’t you believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me? The words I speak are not spoken of myself; it is Abba God, living in me, who is accomplishing the works of God. Believe me that I am in God and God is in me or else believe because of the works I do.

“The truth of the matter is, anyone who has faith in me will do the works I do – and greater works besides. Why? Because I go to Abba God, and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that God may be glorified in me. Anything you ask in my name, I will do.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Greater Works

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Liturgy by Ruth C. Duck)

ONE: This table is now prepared for us. We are invited to share in the feast of God’s presence, celebrating here and now all that is meant by being alive.

The spirit of God moves in and through all time, in every age, in every corner of the earth, calling people to renew their hope and joy.

ALL: At this table we celebrate Jesus, who touched our brokenness with his life; who gathers us together, inside and out. We give ourselves to that wholeness, moving from hurt to happiness and from darkness to light, filling our lives with love, laughter and each other, and joining with all created things to say: “Holy are you, O God.”

ONE: Holy are you, O God, for your mercy is endless. You have filled all creation with light and life and your glory stretches through the heavens.

It was you who led Abraham and Sarah to the land of promise, who saved your people from the desert of bitter tears, who called them to the land of the living. It was you who blessed Miriam and David when they danced and sang in holy places. And through Jesus the Christ, you taught us to celebrate. Those who were blind saw the sun of your goodness, the crippled leaped for joy and those who were locked in the prison of their fears were given the freedom to love.

ALL: Your spirit calls us now, in this place, to gather all people into our celebration, to help the lame and blind, to wipe away tears with an outstretched hand.

ONE: The bread of our being loved, the wine of our joy, stand as reminders that miracles in faith and risk continue to happen. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we ask you to bless this bread and wine so that, in sharing them together, we shall be your church. Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give thank, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Guide My Feet

TFWS #2208

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race, for
I don't want to run this race in vain! | 4. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race, for
I don't want to run this race in vain! |
| 2. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race, for
I don't want to run this race in vain! | 5. Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in
vain! |
| 3. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand my me while I run this race, for I
don't want to run this race in vain! | 6. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race, for
I don't want to run this race in vain! |

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Let not your hearts be troubled. God has chosen to make a home in us.

In a way, the whole cosmos, everyone we have ever loved,
everyone who is still yet to be,
all that is birthed by life and love,
abides in us.

There is nothing around us that is not also within.

And so we are sent to practice love towards every living thing,
knowing that all is connected,
and our hope rests in each other. 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
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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
Margaret Reese, Music Director
Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent & Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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)