



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

May 11, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLAND 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

ACTS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Brandon Reeves

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

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the second Sunday in our Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month series. Each Sunday we will focus on an Asian American Pacific Islander theologian. Today we are guided by the theology of Winston Halapua, retired Anglican Bishop of Polynesia, who invites us to encounter God not only in scripture or sanctuary, but in the *Moana* — the vast ocean that connects and sustains the peoples of Oceania and all people and creation.

Halapua's Moana theology finds divine wisdom in the living relationships among people, the ocean, the land, and the air across the Pacific Islands. As people of faith living in a time of rising seas and fractured communities, his theology calls us to remember that we are not isolated beings but are in the great canoe sailing the ocean of life together.

We gather today on this Eastertide Sunday, in this spirit of Moana, remembering that the risen Christ appeared first not in a temple or throne room, but in wild and open places — a garden, a dusty road, a seaside beach. Resurrection happens among land, sea, sky, and people. Resurrection happens in places often overlooked.

Please rise in body or spirit and lift your voice in Easter praise as we sing our opening hymn, “Christ Has Risen.”

***OPENING HYMN**

Christ Has Risen, v. 1, 3 & 4

TFWS #2115

**1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.**

**Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!**

**3. Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright.**

**They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.**

**4. Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.**

**Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.**

WORDS: John Bell; MUSIC: William Moore; Words © 1988 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

OPENING PRAYER (adapted from a prayer written by Winston Halapua)

Loving and Embracing God, you are the God of the universe and all Creation. We thank you for the Moana. We thank you the great Oceans flowing into one another and around the continents and islands. We affirm our guardianship of the precious gift of Creation. We have a vision. We have courage. We have your guidance. We have the presence of the Risen One whose power to love is greater than all the powers of destruction. Grant that together we may bring peace to our Planet Earth, to its many creatures and its many people. We pray in the name of our God – Creator, Redeemer and Life-giving Spirit. Amen

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 THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Clara Zundel

ACTS OF SHARING

MOTHERS' DAY LITANY (adapted from "Prayers for All Women," Leah D. Schade - Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary)
As God's beloved people, let us pray for the church, the whole human family, and God's good Creation.

ONE: We pray for women who are mothers, either by birth, by adoption, or through foster care. We pray that they may be supported in their mothering task by the men and other women in their lives; that their children may be provided with sufficient food, shelter and healthcare. Hear us, Mothering Jesus.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for women who give of themselves not just through childbearing, but with their intellect, their skills, their gifts, and their physical abilities. Bless all women, that they may receive equal compensation for their work, may be protected from abuse and harassment, and may be valued as unique individuals. Hear us, Holy God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for women who are pregnant; those who are waiting with joyful expectation, and those who are filled with uncertainty and fear; we pray for women whose pregnancies are high-risk, and whose lives are in danger in the birthing process. Hear us, Mothering God,

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for women and men who long to be parents, but who struggle with infertility. Join their cries with those of Sarah and Abraham, Hannah and Elkanah, Elizabeth and Zecharias, that your will may be done in their lives. Hear us, God of Life,

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for women who have lost children, either in utero, through sickness, through war and violence, or through tragic accident. Comfort them, Holy Spirit with your everlasting presence and assure them of new life. Hear us, Mothering Christ.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for women who are incarcerated; women who have been abusive; women who have been hurtful and neglectful. Hear us, Mothering Spirit.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for those who are transitioning, those who are seeking to understand who God has created them to be in their bodies, minds and spirits. May they be protected from danger during their time of vulnerability, and guided by those who love and support them. Hear us, Holy God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for women who strive to protect and advocate for those most vulnerable – children, the poor, God’s Creation, the disenfranchised, other women, and those men and women whose voices go unheard. Hear us, Holy Jesus.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for those for whom this is a day of mourning and sadness. For those who have lost mothers and other important women in their lives, that they may be comforted with the peace that passes all understanding. Hear us, Comforting Spirit.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: We give thanks for women who have been our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters, life-partners, and friends. We give thanks for men who have mothered us with their own caring, affection, nurturing, and friendship. We lift to you now the names of those who have mirrored your mothering spirit, Holy God. (congregation is invited to say names aloud) . . .

ONE: Give them your grace and bless them in their lives. Hear us, Mothering God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: For who else does the church pray today? . . . For all those we name, and for those who have no one to name them, Hear us, O God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

ONE: Holy God, we lift our prayers to you through the Holy Spirit in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Gift of Love

American Folk Tune arr. by Hal H. Hopson



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code

DOXOLOGY

In Hawaiian:

Ho‘onani i ka Makua mau,

Ke Keiki me ka ‘Uhane Nō,

Ke Akua mau ho‘omaika‘i pū

Ko kēiā ao, ko kēlā ao. Amene.

In English:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Source: *Based on scripture from Ephesians 1:3, the doxology is a way of praising God for our blessings. The doxology is typically sung for grace before meals.*

‘Ukulele Kani E – 2014

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM

God's Gonna Set This World on Fire

traditional spiritual, arr. by Moses Hogan

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36–43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple, a woman named Tabitha—"Dorcas," in Greek—who never tired of doing kind things or giving to charity. About this time she grew ill and died. They washed her body and laid her out in an upstairs room.

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples sent two couriers to Peter with the urgent request, "Please come over to us without delay." Peter set out with them as they asked.

Upon his arrival, they took him upstairs to the room. All the townswomen who had been widowed stood beside him weeping, and showed him the various garments Dorcas had made when she was still with them.

Peter first made everyone go outside, then knelt down and prayed. Turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, stand up." She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. The next thing he did was to call in those who were believers—including the widows—to show them that she was alive.

This became known all over Joppa and, because of it, many came to believe in Jesus Christ. Peter remained awhile in Joppa, staying with Simon, a leather tanner.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Winston Halapua
Rev. Paul Perez

**1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies; (*Refrain*)**

(Refrain) **God of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light; (*Refrain*)**

**3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight; (*Refrain*)**

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

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

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 Waawiyataanong (“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)