



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 17, 2021  
21<sup>st</sup> 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

## 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 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)

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God is praised when we live into the fullest expression of ourselves;

**ALL: They love queerness, melanin, technicolored gender-expressions,**

ONE: They love fleshy bodies, neuro-divergent minds and curious spirits. God invites us not to a ladder to climb nor a 10-step improvement plan;

**ALL: They invite us to the table of simple abundance,**

ONE: Imperfect and real community, beloved belonging just as we are.

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* (Adapted from UMH #89)

- 1. Joyful, Joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love; hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2. All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays, stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea. Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.**
- 3. You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed. Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you; teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.**
- 4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan. Every singing, more we forward, faithful in the midst of strife. Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.**

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## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**Down to Earth God, thank you for the example of our teacher, Jesus, who joined people in the ordinary dust of their days, who got up close to the life lived on their feet, and who blessed them with water and compassionate presence. Infuse our lives with sacred-ordinary connection and when our feet are weary, still us to receive a blessing from another. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Young person and water protector, Alexander Howland, said while at Standing Rock; "I'm going to stay as long as it takes to ensure the safety of our future generations and the body of the Earth might flourish. Let us bring our offerings to God and each other.

### **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 Way-Maker, when despair and overwhelm knock at the door of our souls, awaken our hearts to tenderness, enliven our minds with creativity, and meet our bodies with rest, that we might be fortified to co-labor with you to bring about your kin-dom. We dedicate these offerings to the invigorating of our spirits and to the work of your kin-dom. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **\*HYMN**

*The Servant Song*

TFWS #2222

- 1. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**
- 5. When we sing to God in Heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**
- 6. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

WORDS: Richard Gillard; MUSIC: Richard Gillard; © 1977 Scripture in Song (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc.); CCLI2815228

## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

### **GOSPEL LESSON**

*Mark 10:35-45*

The Inclusive Bible

Zebedee's children James and John approached Jesus. "Teacher" they said, "We want you to grant our request."

"What is it?" Jesus asked.

They replied, "See to it that we sit next to you, one at your right and one at your left, when you come into your glory."

Jesus told them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I will drink or be baptized in the same baptism as I?"

"We can," they replied. Jesus said in response, "From the cup I drink of, you will drink; the baptism I am immersed in, you will share. But as for sitting at my right or my left, that is not mine to give; it is for those to whom it has been reserved."

The other ten, on hearing this, became indignant at James and John.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know how among the Gentiles those who exercise authority are domineering and arrogant; those 'great ones' know how to make their own importance felt. But it can't be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Promised One has come not to be served, but to serve – to give one life in ransom for the many."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*Taking Up Your Cross in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CLOSING HYMN

*Christ, Whose Love Though Humble Service* (adapted from UMH #581)

1. Christ, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed: We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

2. Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Christ, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

3. As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving your abundant life to share.

4. Called to worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give, that your servants, Christ, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

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## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

When our friend is sick, may we find a way to lower them through the ceiling so that they might be in the presence of the healer.

When corporate greed pockets our daily bread, may we organize our way to abundance.

When our sacred self-worth goes uncelebrated, may we dance our beloved bodies to liberation.

Go forth with the Spirit, our Advocate, who blesses our becoming. Amen.

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### Central United Methodist Church

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