



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

April 11, 2021

Holy Humor 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: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; SOZ = Songs of Zion

**PRELUDE**

Daniel Dillingham

**INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

**VIDEO**

The Skit Guys

## **ACTS OF PRAISE**

### **\*CALL TO LAUGHTER**

ONE: Joy is loose.

**ALL: In the wiggles of the children,**

ONE: The whispers of the youth.

**ALL: The smiles of the adults.**

ONE: We praise God for this glorious day.

**ALL: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

ONE: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs.

**ALL: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Go Tell It on the Smartphone* (Tune UMH #251)

(verses 1-2 by Paul Lintern, verse 3 by Jonathan Hauze, Chorus by the Hauze children)

*(Chorus):* **Go tell it on the smartphone,  
FaceTime and Skype and way too  
many Zooms, Go tell it on the  
smartphone that Jesus is alive.**

**2. The women found no body their spices  
to anoint; instead they found an angel,  
God's message to appoint. *(Chorus)***

**1. While soldiers watched the gravesite  
that quiet Sunday dawn there came a  
big commotion and then the storm was  
gone. *(Chorus)***

**3. When Jesus spoke to Mary, He said,  
"Don't hold me tight, I'm going to the  
Creator, so that you'll always have my  
light!" *(Chorus)***

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. And arr. By William Farley Smith, 1986; Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

**GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**JOKE BREAK**

## **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY PRAYER**

**Dour-faced in the presence of stunning sunsets;  
Stricken with chronic severity while surrounded by gurgling babies;  
Frozen-souled when touched by the warmth of grace;  
If we are made in your image,  
It's no wonder people think of you  
As a grouchy old geezer,  
God of joy.  
So breathe on us...  
fill our souls with:  
laughter which chases away  
the long faces,  
chuckles which wipe frowns  
off our brows,  
great guffaws  
which shatter hardened hearts;  
Fill us,  
Breath of sidesplitting shrieks,  
so we can celebrate the  
last laugh of death. Amen  
© Thom M. Shuman**

## **JOKE BREAK**

## **WEEKLY SHAKEDOWN**

## **INVITATION TO LIGHTEN YOUR WALLET**

## **OFFERTORY**

Laura Burger

**\*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**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angel Said*

(Tune UMH #240)

1. Hark! the Herald Angel said, why seek  
Jesus with the dead? He's not here, as  
you can see, Grave cloths lie where he  
should be. On your way now tell the  
others, Jesus will be with his brothers.  
Sisters too, he wants to see on the hills of  
Galilee. Hark! the Herald Angel said, He  
is risen from the dead.
2. Two disciples walking down to Emmaus  
with a frown: Jesus walked and talked  
with them whose hearts were low and  
eyes were dim. To the stranger they both  
said: Stay with us for nights ahead. Jesus  
blessed and broke the bread, and their  
hearts within them sped: Now our eyes  
have seen the Lord! Now our hope has  
been restored!

3. When the doors were locked in fear,  
Christ the Lord again came near. Peace  
be with you! twice he said, Now I send  
you in my stead. Take the Spirit and  
forgive, Show the world that I do live.  
Let my love cast out all fear, trust that I  
am always near! Witness to the Risen  
One, Share my peace with everyone!  
(Words: Paul Lintern (v.1) and Jonathan  
Hauze (vv. 2-3))

MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. By William H. Cummings, 1856;  
CCLI2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### JOKE BREAK

**A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR** John 20:19-31 The Inclusive Bible Randy Priest

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas – nicknamed Didymus or "Twin" – was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!"

Thomas answered, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them saying, "Peace be with you."

Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief but believe!"

Thomas said in response, "My Savior and My God!"

Jesus then said, “You’ve become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed!”

Jesus performed many other signs as well – signs not recorded here – in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that believing you may have life in Jesus’ name.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

## **JOKE BREAK**

**NAP TIME (aka Sermon)**

*Holy Laughter*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**STICK A FORK IN IT, WE’RE DONE!**

**VIDEO**

I Love to Laugh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvAGNSJ7Wrc&t=7s>

## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ONE: Go into this day with the delight of faith.

ALL: We go forth to dance and to sing the resurrection story.

ONE: Go into this day and this week with spirits filled by the Spirit’s joy.

ALL: We go forth to celebrate new life given and proclaimed. Amen!

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### **Central United Methodist Church**

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**[www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://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

Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists