



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

July 19, 2020

Seventh 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**

## **INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

# ACTS OF PRAISE

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God, you are a God of invitation.

**ALL: You invited Abraham to follow you.**

ONE: You invited the disciples to drop their nets.

**ALL: You invited the children to draw near.**

ONE: You invited Peter to walk on water.

**ALL: You invited the tax collector to dinner.**

ONE: You invited the Samaritan woman into eternal life.

**ALL: Just the same, you invite us to live lives of faith.**

ONE: Give us the strength to say yes.

**ALL: Let us worship good and holy God.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*You Are Mine*

TFWS #2218

**1. I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.**

**2. I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.**

**3. I am strength for all the despairing. Healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name. (Refrain)**

**4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk and live! (Refrain)**

WORDS: David Haas, MUSIC: David Haas, © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

# ACTS OF SHARING

## GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the wind and the sea,

You invite us to be brave, but we are more familiar with fear.

You invite us to trust you, but we'd rather trust wind and gravity.

You invite us to believe in ourselves, but we have never been good at that.

You invite us to move – to change and take a risk-

But we stay planted where we are, afraid of the ways growth might hurt.

Forgive us for our self doubt and fear.

We believe, despite our unbelief. Amen.

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

### 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

#### POETRY PRAYER

*Unraveled by Uncertainty* written by Sarah Are Sylvia Oatley

“How do you know?”

I asked her,

My therapist,

The one I had hoped would have all the answers.

Instead, she just scribbled notes across from me,  
A soft couch and a softer smile.

“How do you know when it’s time to go?” I asked.

“How do you know when it’s time to give up?

When it’s time to take the leap?

When it’s time to choose love?

When it’s time to show your cards?

Or time to let them fall?

How do I know when nothing seems sure?”

And there in that office

With the soft couch and soft smile,

My therapist leaned forward,

Placing elbows on knees,

Speaking with gentle authority:

“There is a knowing

Deep in your bones,

A flutter of God’s breath,

That bounces and roams

Through your gut, your heart,

And your soul,

And that flutter is truth

That will guide your way home.

So close your eyes

And take a deep breath

Dig deep within,

And you’ll know the next step.

That was years ago,

But she was right.

God was in my storm,

Just like God is in my bones;

I just couldn’t see that

In the midst of unknown.

And so elbows to knees, I share this with you,  
Because you will have unraveling days too.

And when you do, I pray for a couch,

For a soft-smiled friend and the  
Wisdom she spouts.

But if for some reason, you don’t have those,

Then might I suggest you fall,

Elbows to knees,

And pray

For that deep sense of knowing.

For God is close,

Much closer than you think

The breath in your lungs

And the hand in the sea.

**\*CENTERING HYMN**

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

TFWS #2145

1. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2. I've got joy like a fountain...

3. I've got love like an ocean

WORDS: African American spiritual, MUSIC: African American spiritual, CCLI 2815228

**ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Matthew 14:22-33*

Kalyn Jackson

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves which had been raised by the fierce winds.

At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. "It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear they began to cry out.

Jesus hastened to reassure them: "Don't worry, it's me! Don't be afraid!"

Peter spoke up and said, "If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water."

"Come!" Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened. He began to sink, and cried out, "Save me!"

Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter. "You have so little faith!" Jesus said to him, "Why did you doubt?"

Once they had climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed great reverence, declaring to Jesus, "You are indeed God's Own!"

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

Unraveled by Uncertainty

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**VIDEO**

*Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, Hold On*

**BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

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Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Nina Scott, Ensemble Director, Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist