



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

May 12, 2019

4th Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day

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

Pastorale on the tune of "St. Columa" by Wilber Held

(The Prelude is a time for silent prayer and meditation. Please be respectful of this sacred time and space.)

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: And Jesus said, "Come!" To all mothers and all children: he said,

ALL: "Come!"

ONE: to the motherless and the childless: he said,

ALL: "Come!"

ONE: to all who long to be mothered: he said,

ALL: "Come!"

ONE: Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

ALL: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

ONE: for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls."

ALL: Come! Let us worship together.

(To the tune of Love Divine All Love Excelling)

1. **God, you wrap your love around us, like a blanket, soft and warm. You give rest when we are weary, You protect us from the storm. May each person who finds shelter in these blankets that we share also feel the joy and comfort of your love's protecting care.**
2. **Jesus, you were once a baby, sought by those who would destroy. Into Egypt you were carried — far from home, a little boy. Were you wrapped up warm to travel, safe from terror, free from harm? Did you feel God's strong protection, snuggled there in Mary's arm?**
3. **May the women, men and children fleeing danger every day know, through us, your living presence; You walk with them on their way. Spirit, as you give them comfort, teach us here to freely give; may we blanket this world over with your love, so all may live.**

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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LITANY of THANKS for BOLD WOMEN

ONE: God, we give thanks today for the witness of bold women. From the earliest times until today and into the future, bold women show all of us how to live as God's beloved children in God's beloved creation, carrying out our baptismal call to work for justice and peace for all of God's creatures.

ONE: For Eve, mother of us all, the first beloved, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For Miriam, who danced beside the Red Sea, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For Mary, the mother of Jesus, who pondered the angel's words in her heart, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For Mary Magdalene, a disciple and first to hear the voice of the risen Christ, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For Naomi, who rejoiced in her grandson Obed, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For the Syro-Phoenician woman, bold enough to challenge Jesus himself for her child's sake, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For Mary and Martha of Bethany, who served God together in their different ways, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For the persistent widow, who would not rest until she obtained justice, we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: For Lydia, a business woman, seller of purple cloth, who is a model of fierce determination, and hospitality we say:

ALL: Thank you, God!

ONE: All of our lives have been shaped by the presence and witness of bold women. Let us now name these bold women aloud.

ONE: For the witness of all bold women, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, God, we thank you and we praise you. May their boldness flourish in our hearts as we live out our baptismal call to serve you and our neighbor, with all our hearts, with all our minds, with all our strength.

ALL: Thank you, God!

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rebecca Wilson

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Lord is my Shepherd by Thomas Matthews

Chancel Choir

***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**

PASTORAL PRAYER

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 16: 11-15 (The Inclusive Bible)

We put out to sea from Troas and set course straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis; from there we went to Philippi, which was one of the bigger cities in Macedonia and a Roman colony, and spent a few days there. On the Sabbath we went along the river outside the gates, thinking we might find a place of prayer. We sat down and preached to the women who had come to the gathering. One of them was named Lydia, a devout woman from the town of Thyatira who was in the purple-dye trade. As she listened to us, Christ opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying. After she and her household were baptized, she extended us an invitation: "If you are convinced that I am a believer in Christ, please come and stay with us." We accepted.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

Women, Flex Your Muscles

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

UMH #664

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's kin-dom and answer the call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as on in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

WORDS: Omer Westendorf, 1964, MUSIC: Welsh folk tune; harm. by Leland Sateren, 1972, CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CHORAL BENEDICTION

God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Hymn to Joy" by Gordon Young

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus
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Nina Scott, Ensemble Director
Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent
Rod Rose, Custodian
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists
Kaitlyn Szczypka, Nursery Coordinator