



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter



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

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are the body of Christ

ALL: Justice seeking, bread breaking, hymn singing, risk taking, Body of Christ!

ONE: Baptized by one Spirit, we are members of one body.

ALL: Many and varied in culture, sexuality, age, class and ability, we are members of Christ's beautiful body.

ONE: None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."

ALL: For only together can we find wholeness.

ONE: None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."

ALL: For we are connected like muscle and bone. If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!

ONE: Come in, all are welcome, come into worship! Come with your longings, your questions and your fears.

ALL: Come with your dreams for a better day, one with dignity and safety for all!

ONE: Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one!

ALL: Let us worship God! Alleluia!

*OPENING HYMN *There is Room in God's Great Welcome* (Tune UMH #150)

1. There is room in God's great welcome;
See! The doors are open wide! Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside! There is so much room for difference – men and women, gay and straight. In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.
2. There is room in our good nation if we stand on justice-ground. God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound. Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning to breathe free! There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.
3. There is room for understanding, for the outcast and the poor; for the Christian, Jew and Muslim- there is room for these and more. For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long career, there is room for building bridges, but there is no room for fear.
4. There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed: women who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed. Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved. God, may we seek what you treasure; may we all make room for love.

Tune: William Moore's Columbian Harmony, 1825; Lyrics © by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette 2016; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS (By Rev. Pamela June Webb, founder of the Covenant of Inclusion, Open and Affirming Ministries of the GLAD Alliance, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ))

ONE: Blessed God, we give thanks for our many gifts: for the gifts of our race, gender and sexual orientation, and for the sacraments of relationship and community that grow from these gifts.

ALL: Holy God, we rejoice for the healing power of salvation.

ONE: Sanctify our hearts that our lives may glorify and show forth Your power of salvation.

ALL: We thank you for healing our ears to hear how racism attempts to silence a people by consensus. Open our ears to hear the silence and the language of our own racism.

ONE: God, we give you thanks because you give us the wisdom to discern injustice and the courage to stand for peace.

ALL: Give us the strength of a mountain to stand against the ignorance of sexism, the promotion of racism, and the condemnation and defamation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

ONE: Blessed God, thank you for delivering us out of the mire of injustice that pollutes, disrespects and dismisses the needs and concerns of women throughout the world.

ALL: Holy God, we rejoice because You are healing the blindness of sexism. Open our eyes to see how we can support women in their struggles.

ONE: Holy Spirit, our teacher, teach us to be aware of when our own freedoms infringe on the freedoms of others.

ALL: Blessed God, forgive us for participating in attitudes and behaviors that cause repression and grief for others. Make us aware and give us the power to change.

ONE: Holy Spirit of life, thank You for the gift of those who give their hearts of empathy, who reach out with support and understanding to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, to those healing the injuries of racism and to those who nurture the rights of women.

ALL: Be with us all in our struggles. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Spencer

***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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON *Psalm 139:13-18* The Inclusive Bible

You created my inmost being and stitched me together in my mother's womb. For all these mysteries I thank you – for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works – my soul knows it well. My frame was not hidden from you while I was being made in that secret place, knitted together in the depths of the earth; your eyes saw my body even there.

All my days were written in your book, all of them planned before even the first of them came to be. How precious your thoughts are to me, O God! How impossible to number them! I could no more count them than I could count the sand. But suppose I could? You would still be with me!

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

VIDEO

A Place at the Table by Windemere United Church in Toronto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJJ9eii3DEY>

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:37-39 The Inclusive Bible

Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths – nor anything else in all creation – will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Power of Acceptance: Acceptance by God, by Neighbor and by Self

Isaac Simmons, Guest Preacher

VIDEO

This is Me! by the Greatest Showman Cast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjxugyZCfuw>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Central United Methodist Church

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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