

Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810 Incorporated 1822 Sanctuary completed 1867



March 3, 2019

Transfiguration 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.

Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; SOZ = Songs of Zion
Please silence cell phones.

PRELUDE

The prelude is a time for quiet prayer and meditation.

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In seasons of difficulty,

ALL: Give thanks and take one step.

ONE: In times of crisis, confusion or uncertainty,

ALL: Give thanks and take one step.

ONE: When you can't see the destination and there is no map,

ALL: Give thanks and take one step.

ONE: When darkness surrounds, but you remember the light,

ALL: Give thanks and take one step.

ONE: Because in each step, we are not alone.

ALL: Give thanks and take one step.

ONE: Because in each one step, we are one step closer.

ALL: Give thanks and take one step.

ONE: To the heart of hope and help and God, who says

ALL: Give thanks and take one step.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *O Christ, the Great Foundation* Tune: UMH #545
(Lyrics written by Timothy Tingfang Lew)

1. O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand to preach your true salvation in every age and land; pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure, to keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.
2. Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth, we bear Christ's own impression, the sign of second birth; One holy people gathered in love beyond our own, by grace we were invited, by grace we make you known.
3. Where tyrants' hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak, where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak, there let your church awaking attack the powers of sin and all their ramparts breaking, with you the victory win.
4. This is the moment glorious when Christ who once was dead shall lead the church victorious, their champion and their head. The Sovereign of creation a new dominion brings, the final consummation, the glory of all things.

WORDS: Samuel J. Stone, 1866
MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864
CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rebecca Wilson

POEM

Rebecca Wilson

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Child of God by Mark Miller

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

PRAYER SONG

Someone's crying, Lord, Kumbayah, Someone's crying, Lord, Kumbayah. Someone's crying, Lord, Kumbayah, O Lord, Kumbayah.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*CENTERING MUSIC

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.

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.

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.

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.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

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.)
CCLI 2815228

*OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:1-2, 18-21

Hear the word of YHWH – the One who created you, the One who fashioned you, Israel; Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the seas, I will be with you; when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown. Walk through fire, and you will not be singed; walk through flames and you will not be burned. “Forget the events of the past, ignore the things of long ago! Look, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth – can't you see it? I'm making a road in the desert and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland. Wild beasts will honor me – the jackals and the ostriches – for I will put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, these people who I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SOLO

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

God is Doing a New Thing!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

PASSING OF THE PEACE

A GREAT THANKSGIVING DURING TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

ONE: Beloved, though we may not feel it, God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Beloved, though our hearts are heavy, lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to God.

ONE: Let us pray: God, when the world was void and chaos moved over the face of the waters, you were there. God, when nothing felt right, when nothing felt clear, when all seemed in great disarray, you were there. God, when the way through the wilderness seemed indiscernible, you were there. Even now, God, when the pain of justice denied and voices unheard, both queer and straight are too great for words to express, you are still there. God, in the moment when we hear words that deny our full humanity cleverly disguised in the rhetoric of unity, even then you are there. You share our pain and feel our frustration. You see our fists raised in the air in anger and our cries for true liberty, and through all of it, you are there. And so, with all of us here on earth and with the cries of the saints above, we join together in this broken hallelujah which you will never turn away...

SOLOIST: But baby I've been here before, I've seen this room and I've walked this floor, You know, I used to live alone before I knew ya, and I've seen your flag on the marble arch and love is not a victory march, it's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah.

ALL: Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

ONE: Holy God, your desire to be with us, even in our brokenness, to help us feel that we are never alone was evident in the person of Jesus Christ, the Holy One you sent into our broken world to live among us. Jesus showed us through acts of love and compassion, that you were still with us. Jesus ate with the despised and despised, he befriended the outcast and outliers, and he walked with those who journeyed alone and were left on the side of the road.

Jesus taught us that the kin-dom of heaven is not made up of plans, or votes or amendments but the kin-dom of heaven is like a wild mustard seed that no one can stop and no institution can control.

Jesus taught us that love is bigger than this moment and stronger than any force, even death that can try to separate us from your love. Jesus' message of radical inclusion and generous love was a threat to the powers around him and because of this Jesus was falsely accused, arrested, tortured and put to death. On the night of his betrayal and arrest, Jesus gathered with his friends, women and men alike and shared with them this special meal we now celebrate. He took bread, blessed, broke and gave it to his disciples, saying, "take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you and for the world." He also took the cup and after giving thanks, gave it to his disciples saying, "take and drink, this is the cup of a new covenant made for you."

Jesus felt in every fiber of his being our pain, our betrayal, and the cost of love which eventually led him to the cross. And so, because of these mighty acts of love we give thanks and proclaim what only through faith we can see...

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah.

ONE: Pour out your Spirit on these broken pieces of bread and this fragile cup. Pour out your Spirit on this broken moment of uncertainty. Pour out your Spirit and envelop our torn hearts with your healing touch, so that we can become wounded healers for a broken world. Make us One with you. Make us One with each other, not because we have to not out of a vote, not because we don't want to upset each other, but make us One because we truly see each other for who we are and who you have made us to be: holy, exquisitely beautiful and mutually interdependent. Your Holy Church. Amen.

(Liturgy prepared by Rev. Lydia Munoz and Rev. James McIntire)

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

UMH #557

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

2. Before the Creator's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782
MUSIC: Johann G. Nageli, arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845
CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Ye Now in Peace by Joyce Eiller

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

