



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810 Incorporated 1822 Sanctuary completed 1867

Bulletin for January 12, 2020

Baptism of Jesus 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

Hymnal Guide: UMH - "The United Methodist Hymnal"; TFWS - "The Faith We Sing";

SOZ - "Songs of Zion". The prelude is a time for prayer and meditation.

Please turn off all pagers and cell phones. Thank you.

PRELUDE

Christ Jesus to the Jordan Came by Johann Pachelbel

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

ALL: Jesus emerges from the water.

ONE: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse:

ALL: This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

ONE: Jesus is named. Claimed.

ALL: We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.

ONE: Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

ALL: Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

UMH #605

**1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and
sparkling; compass them with love and
light. Fill, anoint them; send your
Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.**

**2. We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed. Let us
join your feast, partaking cup of
blessing, living bread. God, renew us,
guide our footsteps; free from sin and
all its snares, one with Christ in living,
dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

**3. O how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways! To your
name be glory, honor! With our lives
we worship, praise! We your people
stand before you, water-washed and
Spirit born. By your grace, our lives
we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!**

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1987, MUSIC: Attr. To B. F. White, 1844; harm.
by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978, Words © 1989 The United Methodist
Publishing House; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, CCLI
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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

LITANY: GOD OF THE WATERS

Inez Torbert

ONE: God of the waters. Water of birth,

ALL: Moving us from safety into the world.

ONE: God of waters. Water of connection,

ALL: Engaging the playful Spirit, the passionate Christ, the challenging God.

ONE: God of the waters. Water of life.

ALL: Sustaining, quenching, cleansing.

ONE: God of the waters. Water of trouble.

ALL: Journeying us from here to there, from the known to the unknown.

ONE: God of the waters,

ALL: Birth us. Connect us. Live in us. Trouble us.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Baptism by R. Nathaniel Dett

***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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: Celebrating the coming of the One who brings the reign of God to all people; let us pray for the world God loves, the Church God calls, and all people according to their needs, saying, God, in your mercy and you will respond: Hear our Prayer.

God of light and darkness, through water and the Word, you shine your light into the darkness of our lives. We give thanks for this incredible gift. God, in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ONE: God of love and hate, your love comes in spite of our animosity; you bring reconciliation to those who are divided. We pray for better relations between the United States and Iran. Strengthen us to be peacemakers. God, in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ONE: God of hope and fear, you walk with us through the challenges which surround us. Wash away our anxiety by your promised presence and set us free from despair. God, in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ONE: God of church and world, in baptism you unify yourself with our world, and bring your reign into being. Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place. Motivate us to infuse the world with your justice. God, in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ONE: God of health and illness, there is nothing that separates us from your love. Inspire us to bring your health to the sick, your encouragement to the discouraged, your promise to the dying. God, in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ONE: God of life and death, all that exists is from you, and for you. Enable us to trust your baptismal promise and serve this hurting world. God, in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ONE: God who shines in the darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, in the name of the one who is your light, Jesus the Christ.

ALL: Amen.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*CENTERING HYMN

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

TFWS #2051

1. "I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
2. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.
3. "When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
4. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.
5. "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
6. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.
7. "I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old, I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold."

WORDS: John Ylvisaker, MUCIC: John Ylvisaker, © 1985 John Ylvisaker, CCLI 2815228

*GOSPEL LESSON (Please stand in body or in Spirit) *Matthew 3:13-17* Inez Torbert

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

Resistance in the Water

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

ONE: Let us remember with joy our baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

Come, come to the water.

Come, you who are thirsty.

Come to the water.

For the mighty acts of God are known to us through water.

Water, that primordial pool of creation over which the Spirit hovered.

Water, that cleansed the whole earth for new beginnings, new growth.

Water, that divided so slaves could walk to freedom on dry ground.

Water, our bath, our tomb, and our womb.

Water, by which we are adopted as siblings of the Most High.

Come to the water and give thanks to God whose mighty acts are known to us through water.

Congregation, through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew our covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

ONE: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

ALL: I do.

ONE: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

ALL: I do.

ONE: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, races, gender identities and sexual orientations?

ALL: I do.

ONE: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

ALL: I will.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ONE: Let us pray: We thank you, God for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses, Aaron and Miriam, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

ALL: Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

ONE: Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ALL: Amen.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of our God;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of our
God.**

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

(Refrain) **Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet
heavenly Dove, stay right here with us,
filling us with your love, and for these
blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived when we shall
leave this place.**

UMH 334

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Go Now in Peace by Natalie Sleeth

POSTLUDE

Plein Jeu by Pierre DuMage

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Nina Scott, Ensemble Director

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