



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday in Advent

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

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

We gather together to worship the One who is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

PRELUDE

Jesu Bambino by Pietro Yon

GATHERING: COMPASSION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUSING ON UNABASHED JOY

HYMN

Heaven and Nature Sing

Sing a new song to our God. Lift your hearts with gratitude. Sing a new song to our God. Lift your hearts with gratitude and Joy, Unabashed Joy.

Your steadfast love and faithfulness is ever present in our lives with Joy, Unabashed Joy.

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ONE: Let the voices of all people blend in harmony, in unison let the people magnify the Beloved!

HYMN

**We sing, we sing, joy to the world, heaven
and nature sing, joy to the world, heaven
and nature sing, with joy, Unabashed Joy.**

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THE WREATH

OPENING PRAYER:

Advent 3: Let us pray: Holy God, you provide the source of our joy. It runs deep and wide underneath all of life. When we are tempted to depend on others for happiness, draw us back to you, for you are the Light that shines for us always. Help us to shine that light from within us through our own Unabashed Joy.

ALL: Let us make your blessings known in our hearts this day. Let us make your blessings known in our church this day. Let us make your blessings known in the world this day...in the name of Joy. Amen.

HYMN

**We sing, we sing, joy to the world, heaven
and nature sing, joy to the world, heaven
and nature sing, with joy, Unabashed Joy.**

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*OPENING HYMN

For Everyone Born (Justice and Joy)

- 1. For everyone born a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and
bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place
for growing, for everyone born, a star
overhead. (Refrain)**
- 2. For woman and man, a place at the
table, revising the roles, deciding the
share, with wisdom and grace, diving
the power, for woman and man, a
system that's fair. (Refrain)**
- 3. For young and for old, a place at the
table, a voice to be heard, a part in the
song, the hands of a child in hands that
are wrinkled, for young and for old,
the right to belong. (Refrain)**
- 4. For gay and for straight, a place at the
table, a covenant shared, a welcoming
space, a rainbow of race and gender,
and color, for gay and for straight, the
chalice of grace. (Refrain)**
- 5. For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be.
To work, to speak out, to witness and
worship, for everyone born, the right
to be free. (Refrain)**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, Music: Lori True, Words ©1998 Hope Publishing Company; music ©2001 GIA Publications, CCLI2815228

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

RECEPTION OF GOD’S WORD

As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being when the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it, for we have the “joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts.”

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10 (Common English Bible)

Val Ogbonnaya

Luke 1:46b-55 (The Message)

ONE: Hear what the Spirit is Saying to the Church

ALL: Thanks be to God!

PAGEANT OF SONG AND JOY (see insert)

TRANSFORMATION IN OUR LIVES

Connecting our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy’s possibilities – not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving strength and courage for all circumstances.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Divinum Mysterium by John Roberts

***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

COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place “with passion” (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope and joy to the world.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH #224

- 1. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: news, news! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and Ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now, Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**
- 2. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bless: news, news! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

- 3. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: news, news! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save.**

WORDS: 14th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1855;
MUSIC: German melody; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988; Harm.
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***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN**

We're gonna bring joy to the world, hope to the people, we're gonna give love that's for everyone-unconditionally! We're gonna make peace in our world, God's voice through us be heard. As we look to one another, a glimpse of holy we might see!

Joy, hope, peace and love....

We're gonna bring joy to the world, hope to the people. We're gonna give love that's for everyone – unconditionally! We're gonna make peace in our world, God's voice through us be heard. As we look to one another, A glimpse of the holy we might see, A glimpse of the holy we might see.

Words & Music by Marsha Jean Moors-Charles, *Arr. by Caleb Collins*, © 2019 Marsha Jean Moors-Charles, CCLI 2815228

POSTLUDE

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Nina Scott, Ensemble Director & Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
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