



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810 Incorporated 1822 Sanctuary completed 1867

February 2, 2020

Black History Month/4th Sunday After Epiphany

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

There is a Balm arr. Wilbur Held

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God, you taught our ancestors to sing with their souls while in a foreign land.

ALL: Through music, you taught Black people to persevere and trust in you, even as their hearts and bodies were broken.

ONE: Your power, God, moved through our ancestors, as the rhythm and cadence of music moves through our bodies.

ALL: There would be no Underground Railroad or Civil Rights Movement without a song, and there would be no song without you. Let everything that has breath, praise you!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Blest Are They

TFWS 2155

1. **Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.**
(Refrain)

(Refrain) **Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.**

2. **Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.** *(Refrain)*

3. **Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!** *(Refrain)*

4. **Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.** *(Refrain)*

5. **Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom. Shine for all to see.** *(Refrain)*

WORDS: David Haas, MUSIC: David Haas, © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc., CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

PRAYER

Today in our worship, we lament anti-Black racism and violence. We pray that the Spirit will reorient us: challenging us to live by grace rather than entitlement; expecting us to be a blessing to the earth.

We pray that by acknowledging our brokenness, we will be closer to becoming a church where the good news is lived out; faith nurtured and hearts comforted, gifts shared for the good of all, resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize, fierce love in the face of violence, human dignity defended, members of a community held and inspired by God. Through our tears, may we witness to your love and grace. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

There is a Balm arr. William Dawson

***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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*CENTERING HYMN

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

UMH #133

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms; what
a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain)

2. Oh, how sweet to walk, in this pilgrim
way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from
day to day, leaning on the everlasting
arms. (Refrain)

(Refrain) Leaning, leaning, safe and
secure from all alarms, leaning,
leaning, leaning on the everlasting
arms.

3. What have I to dread, what have I to
fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my God so
near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain)

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887, MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887, CCLI 2815228

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12

Trevair Jackson

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

“Blessed are those who are poor in spirit: the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who are mourning: they will be consoled.

Blessed are those who are gentle: they will inherit the land.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice: they will have their fill.

Blessed are those who show mercy to others: they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are those whose hearts are clean: they will see God.

Blessed are those who work for peace: they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their struggle for justice:
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

“You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

Blessed are You Who Vote!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(written by Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey)

ONE: This is the table of our God, a fellowship that endures history and the trials of our past, present and future with an invitation that rings out through communities and creation, calling you to come as you are. Come because you are beloved and invited, whether you know it or not, feel it or not. Come and be fed; come and find healing; come and be renewed for the journey ahead. Come and know that Jesus invites sinner and saint, oppressor and oppressed, colonizer and colonized, Indigenous and displaced, the corporate CEO and the migrant farmer, the bold and courageous and, the fearful and complacent, for we are one humanity, all children of our Creator, all in need of forgiveness and bread.

God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ONE: God of power and strength, God of the widow and the orphan, God of the imprisoned and impoverished, God of the poor in spirit, the merciful, the mourning...

God who sees the proud and arrogant, God who does not forget those who turn away from the one in need, God who waits to be greeted in prison, in hunger, in hospital, on the corner, God who grieves the world spoken in hate and the action that excludes.

You are the one true God and it is our gift and right and duty to call upon you here. We praise you for your faithfulness in history. We praise you for your prophets who have shouted the truth. We praise you for your saving action in leaders, in the church, in the community and for what you have done sometimes in spite of them.

With all faithful people of Christ, with all your children across the world, with the whole of creation, we pray your name and join the unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

ONE: God, with our sighs too deep for words, we come to this table and we remember when it has been closed. We remember when the invitation was not open. We remember when the feast was in part, but not the whole. With gratitude and thanksgiving, we celebrate in our spirits and our bodies that the barriers people erect cannot withstand the Holy Spirit.

With gratitude and thanksgiving, we celebrate in our spirits and our bodies that the ignorance people profess will not withstand the Holy Spirit.

We gather here today and we remember Jesus gathered with those whom he loved. They celebrated the first Passover, that event that marked the move of the people, from slavery into freedom. As they ate and drank their celebration, their actions anticipated the second Passover – from death into life, from fear into joy, from resignation into resurrection.

Jesus took the bread, a food that they as Jews had in common with all people, gave thanks to you, O God, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat: this is my body – given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup – filled with wine – a drink they had in common with all people. He gave thanks to you, O God, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is a new covenant, given for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us thus far and we trust that you will not leave us. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts that they may strengthen us in the faith, in the fight and in our freedom in Christ. Draw us together and bring us ever more fully into being the people you have created us to be. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

3074 Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Refrain

All *Fm Fm C7*

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a

Fm C7 Fm

wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a

Fm Bbm C7 Fm Fine

wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm. -

Leader or All

Fm Gdim Bbm

1. No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2. When Je - sus was on earth - the
3. - Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him

Bbm C Bbm C7

mum - bling word he said: - he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; - he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; - he has the palm of vic -

Fm Fm Bbm Bdim7 C7 Fm D.C.

a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead. -
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet. -
to - ry and the key of death and hell. -

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION**

**Lead me, guide me along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee,
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing by J. Rosamond Johnson and
James Weldon Johnson

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