



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

January 10, 2021
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 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 have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

ALL: We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

ONE: As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

ALL: We will not fear, for God is with us!

ONE: The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

ALL: Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us are now the waters that wash and nourish us.

ONE: Great is the Fount of Every Blessing.

ALL: Ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.

ONE: Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

*OPENING HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

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.

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!

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.

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
2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

ONE: To a world of brokenness, God speaks of healing. To a time of confusion, God tells of that future grounded in love. To a people longing for redemption, God comes to bring us home. Let us confess how we have not heard God speaking to us, as we pray, saying,

ALL: God of Spirit and fire; baptized, we have not done a good job as your people. We are drawn to the shadows of sin, hoping you will not see our foolishness. We fall into the arms of temptation, letting it spin us until we are out of control. We selfishly cling to your hope and grace, convinced that others will misuse these gifts.

Forgive us, Bearer of Grace. Touch us with your Spirit, so we may be restored to new life; touch us with your grace, so we may offer forgiveness to all people; touch us with your peace, so we might be healers to our world. This we pray in the name of the One who went into the waters of baptism, Jesus Christ, Amen.

(moment of silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: We expect the fire of judgment

ALL: But are given the Spirit of grace;

ONE: We expect God to yell at us,

ALL: But we are called by a new name.

ONE: We expect God to stay angry,

ALL: But we are handed the dove of peace.

ONE: This is the good news for us!

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

CENTERING HYMN

Mothering God

TFWS #2050

1. Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

3. Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

2. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

WORDS: Jean Janzen, based on the writings of Juliana of Norwich;
MUSIC: H. Percy Smith; Words © 1991 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-11 The Inclusive Bible

Karen Tyler-Ruiz

And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Baptism as an Act of Resistance

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

ONE: Sisters and Brothers in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments to Christ who raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new. And so I ask you these questions of faith: will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

ALL: We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of our sin!

ONE: Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

ALL: We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!

ONE: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body?

ALL: We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our 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, sexual orientations and gender identities!

ONE: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are and in all that you do?

ALL: We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

ONE: The Spirit of God is with us.

ALL: Even so, come Christ Jesus!

ONE: Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.
Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

ALL: Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

ONE: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

ALL: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

ONE: Come upon these waters.

ALL: Come upon these waters.

ONE: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

ALL: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

ONE: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

ALL: Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

ONE: Most holy God, Abba!

ALL: Glory to you!

ONE: Jesus Christ, Savior!

ALL: Glory to you!

ONE: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

ALL: Glory to you!

ONE: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

ALL: All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

ONE: You are invited to touch the water you have in front of you and to remember your baptism and be thankful!

VIDEO

Strong God Kirk Franklin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dnl9ZvrM_yQ

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

May the waters of God's grace surround you and uphold you.

May your baptisms strengthen you for the work ahead.

And may the Spirit that descended upon Jesus at his baptism
fall upon your shoulders as you seek to do God's will. Amen.

Central United Methodist Church

23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422

www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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