



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

December 22, 2019

Fourth 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

Pastorate by Dominico Zipoli

GATHERING: COMPASSION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUSING ON PEACEFUL 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, Peaceful Joy.

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

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ONE: Let the sea laugh, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the waters clap their hands; let the hills ring out with joy before the Beloved, who radiates Peace to all the earth. For Love reigns over the world with truth and justice bringing order and balance to all of Creation.

HYMN

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

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THE WREATH

OPENING PRAYER:

Advent 4: Let us pray: Holy God, we await again the arrival of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we long for the peaceful waters of joy that run deep and wide underneath all of life. When we feel the chaos of life bearing down on us, help us to remember that it doesn't have to be this way. Help us to step into a slower rhythm that is your Peaceful Joy.

ALL: Let truth and grace rule our hearts this day. Let truth and grace rule our church this day, let truth and grace rule the world this day...in the name of Peace. amen.

HYMN

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

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*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O come, Emmanuel

UMH #211

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and
ransom captive Israel, that mourns in
lonely exile here until the Son of God
appear. (Refrain)**

**3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in
ancient times once gave the law in
cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)**

(Refrain) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an
ensign of thy people be; before thee
rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy
mercy call. (Refrain)**

**2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh; to us
the path of knowledge show and cause
us in her ways to go. (Refrain)**

WORDS: 9TH CENT. Latin; trans. st. 1,3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6qb, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986
MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854 Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd; © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict. CCLI 2815228

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."

THE CHILDREN'S TIME TO LEAD US

Deaconess Anne Hillman

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart,
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:13-15 Common English Bible
Matthew 1:18-25 (The Message)

Rev. Michael Rothgery

ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD IN MUSIC

To Us a Child of Peace is Born by Michael Pratorius

SERMON

Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

HYMN RESPONSE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

WORDS: Bob McGee, 1976, MUSIC: Bob McGee, 1976, © 1976 C.A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.) CCLI2815228

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

In Quiet Joy by Marcel Dupre

***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**

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlefolk

1. God rest you merry gentlefolk, let nothing you dismay, for Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day, to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. In Bethlehem in Judah this blessed babe was born, and laid within a manger upon this blessed morn; for which his mother Mary did nothing take in scorn. *(Refrain)*

3. From God our creator a blessed angel came, and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. *(Refrain)*

4. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind, and left their flocks a feeding in tempest, storm and wind, and went to Bethlehem straight way, the blessed babe to find. *(Refrain)*

5. Now to our God sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and kinship each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Trad. English carol, 18th cent., MUSIC: Trad. English melody, CCLI 2815228

***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, 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

From Heaven on High by Gordon Young

Central United Methodist Church

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, PhD, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music, Nina Scott, Ensemble Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist, Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists