



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810 Incorporated 1822 Sanctuary completed 1867

March 1, 2020

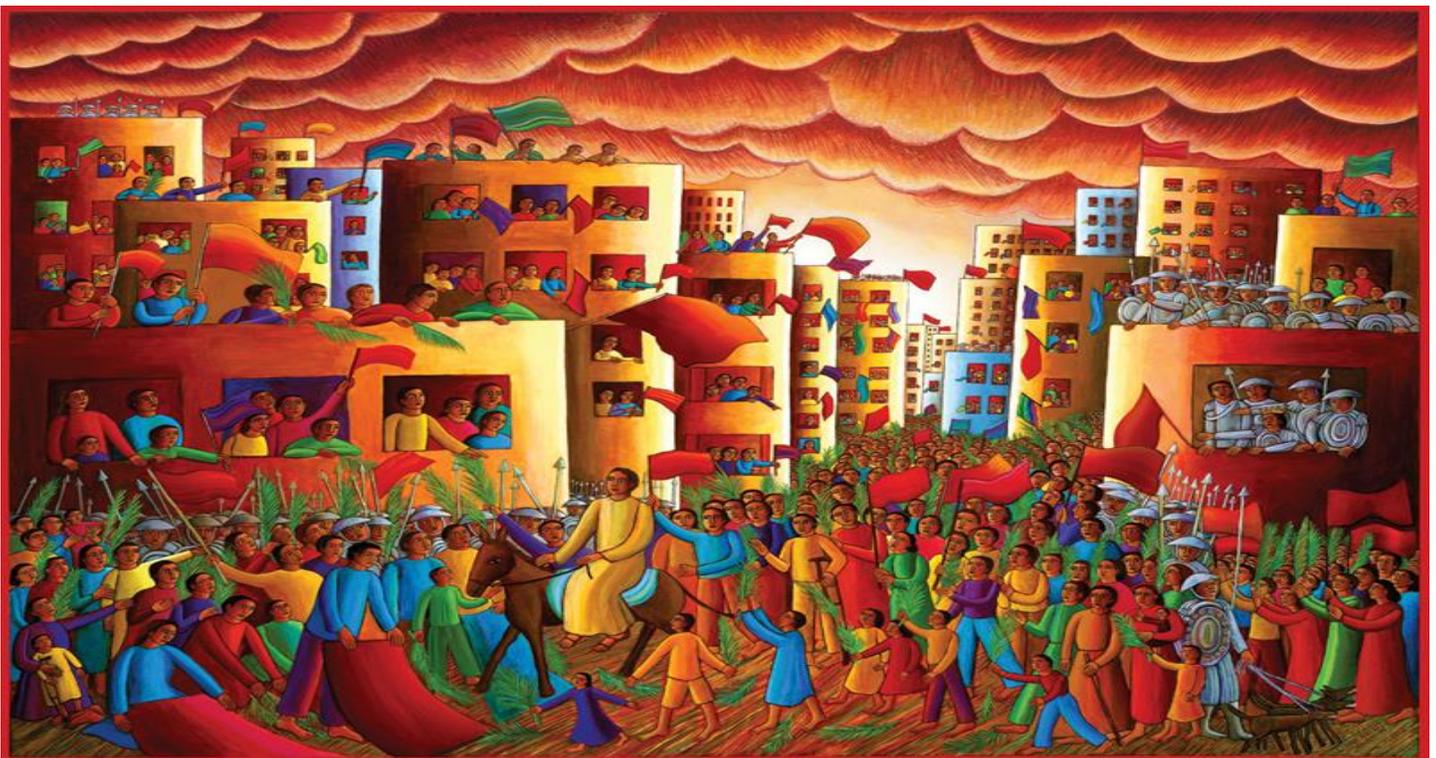
First Sunday in Lent

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.



(John August Swan – Entry into the City ©1990)

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Adagio by Clementi

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Entering the Story

Crossing the Threshold

SOLOIST: Enter, Enter the story, Enter the place you belong. Not just looking on for this is *your* story, enter the story.

CHOIR: Enter, Enter the story, Enter the place you belong. Not just looking on for this is *your* story, enter the story.

Congregation: Enter, Enter the passion, Enter the place we belong. Not just looking on, for this is *our* passion, enter the passion. (Repeat)

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: Let us pray together:

ALL: We stand at the gate, hesitant and uncertain. Will we join the parade, risking our reputation along with Jesus? Or will we play it safe? Forgive our fear, our indecision, our apathy. Such moments in life are not easy, O God, yet we know you are with us. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name adapted from UMH #154

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. All hail the power of Jesus name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Christ servant of all. Attend the Savior's sovereign claim, and crown Christ servant of all.</p> <p>2. Adorn, O martyred saints of old, the coronation hall; Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all. Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.</p> | <p>3. All heirs of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall. Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all. Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all.</p> <p>4. Before the cross, with heaven's throne, we on our knees shall fall. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.</p> |
|---|--|

Assurance of Pardon and Entering the Peace of Christ

Getting Perspective

Telling the Story: Through a Child's Eyes

HYMN

**I love to tell the story of unseen things
above, Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus
and his love. I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my
longings as nothing else can do.**

I Love to Tell the Story

*(Refrain) I love to tell the story, 'twill be
my theme in glory, to tell the old, old
story of Jesus and his love.*

UMH #156

WORDS: Katherine Hankeyh, ca. 1868; MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869;
CCL2815228

Listening for the Story

Zechariah 9:9-10

The people who gathered for Jesus' parade would have been familiar with the Hebrew text from their tradition, Zechariah's prophecy that included this hopeful image:

Rejoice in heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! Look! Your ruler comes to you: victorious and triumphant, humble, riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The ruler will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow will be banished. The ruler will proclaim peace for the nations, the empire stretching from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.

Choir Anthem

Just Beyond the Palms, by Lloyd Larson

Dwelling in the Story

DRAMATIST

Daniel Spyker

CHOIR: Enter, Enter the story, Enter the place you belong. Not just looking on for this is *your* story, enter the story.

ALL: Enter, enter the passion, enter the place we belong. Not just looking on for this is *our* passion, enter the passion.

SERMON

"The Parade: Risking Reputation"

Zooming In

The Body of Christ Prays

HYMN

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

UMH #349

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus look full on
his wonderful face and the things of earth
will grown strangely dim in the light of
his wonder and grace.**

WORDS: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922; MUSIC: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922;
© 1922, renewed 1950 Singspiration Music, CCLI2815228

A Time of Offering Ourselves

Communion and Offering

ONE: Turn your eyes upon Jesus.

ALL: May love and grace be with us all.

ONE: Let us lift our hearts up to our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks.

ONE: It is right and a good a joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, divine artist, creator of heaven and earth. Your brushstrokes evoked the whole of your palette, making all creation into your colorful images. You breathed into us the breath of life and framed us with the story of love. When we turn away and our love fades like a work of art long neglected, you restore us to original glory. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn

(sung to the tune of Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus)

**ALL: Holy, holy, Lord God of power and might! And with heav'n we sing of your glory,
with Hosannas to our God!**

ONE: Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ. You knew we needed a close up encounter with you and you zoomed in the lens to meet us face to face. Your Spirit anointed him to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and ate with sinners. He provoked the powers that oppress in a parade into Jerusalem that proclaimed a different kind of power that put him at great risk.

Holy God, your work astounds us, in its power and promise. By his baptism, our call is established; by his suffering, our pain is companioned; by his resurrection, our own lives are renewed. By this covenant, the Spirit lives in us.

In that last week, events public and private began to lead to a moment in which he surrounded himself with his dearest friends. Who among us would not do the same if we knew our time was drawing to a close? Time stood still – life in stark relief – as he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: “Drink from this, all of you, this is my new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

HYMN

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full on his wonderful face, and the things of earth will look strangely dim in the light of his wonder and grace.

ONE: And so, we remember your mighty acts in Jesus Christ and we offer ourselves as part of the story of sacrifice and salvation for the sake of the world. We proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

ONE: I invite you to open your palms upward. Take a moment to be still, to “freeze frame” this moment. It is here that we come to be transformed by God’s grace into the beauty God intends. Know that all we must do is open ourselves to receive. The master artist of this moment – of all moments – is at work to restore us even now.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the love of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his life and his love.

Take a moment to look around, because as you look upon the body of Christ, you do indeed turn your eyes upon Jesus. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever, Amen.

Entering the World's Story

HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH #577

1. God of grace and God of Glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn they Christ, assail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kin-dom's goal, lest we miss thy kin-dom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907; Words by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs, CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Abide, I Dearest Jesus by Johann Pachelbel

Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422
www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ed Rowe, Pastor Emeritus
Anne Hillman, PhD, Director of Children 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, Receptionist