



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810 Incorporated 1822 Sanctuary completed 1867

March 15, 2020

## Third 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.**



“The Tribute Money” by James Jacques Joseph Tissot, 1836-1902

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

*Invocation in A Minor* by Frank Asper

**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 come here to encounter the teachings of Jesus. Many wanted to destroy him for these teachings, and sometimes we too find that his words challenge us, calling us to more than we think we can be or do. Forgive us, O God. Let us be shaped into a new people, made in the mold of justice, not the stamp of Caesar's coin. 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

*God, Speak to Me That I May Speak* adapted from UMH #463

- 1. God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone; as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.**
- 2. O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.**
- 3. O teach me, God, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart; and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 4. O fill me with thy fullness, God, until my very heart o'er-flow, in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.**
- 5. O use me, God, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where, until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.**

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1872,  
MUSIC: Adapt. from Robert Schumann, 1839,  
CCLI 2815228

*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 Hankey, ca. 1868, MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869;  
CCLI2815228

*Listening for the Story*

*Matthew 4:1-11*

Val Ogbonnaya

Being tested was nothing new for Jesus. During his ministry, he was faced time and again with situations in which he was asked to defend his teachings against "the way we've always done it." Indeed, his entire ministry was preceded by temptation. Just after John baptized him, he was led into the wilderness journey and was tempted to use his status as "God's Son" for ends not becoming of a humble servant. No wonder Jesus could recognize deceit in the Pharisee's spies and the Herodian's questions in Jerusalem that last week. He had experienced it before in the form of evil incarnate.

Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, to be tempted by the Devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. Then the tempter approached and said, "If you are the only begotten, command these stones to turn into bread."

Jesus replied, "Scripture has it, 'We live not on bread alone but on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Next the Devil took Jesus to the Holy City, set him on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are the Only Begotten, throw yourself down. Scripture has it, 'God will tell the angels to take care of you, with their hands they will support you, that you may never stumble on a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "Scripture also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'"

The Devil then took Jesus up a very high mountain and displayed all the dominions of the world in their magnificence, promising, "All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to the Devil, "Away with you, Satan! Scripture says, 'You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.'"

At that the Devil left and angels came and attended Jesus.

**Choir Anthem**

*I Surrender All* by Moses Hogan

*Dwelling in the Story*

**DRAMATIST**

Cameron T. Davis

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 Teaching: Risking Challenge”*

*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 glory and grace.**

WORDS: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922; MUSIC: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922;  
© 1922, renewed 1950 Singpiration Music, CCL12815228

*A Time of Offering Ourselves*

**Offering**

**\*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**

*Entering the World's Story*

**HYMN**

*Are Ye Able Said the Master*

UMH #530

1. “Are ye able?” said the Master, “to be crucified with me?” “Yea,” the sturdy dreamers answered, “to the death we follow thee.” (*Refrain*)

(*Refrain*) Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine. Remold them, make them, like thee divine. Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a beacon to God, to love and loyalty.

2. “Are ye able to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes, that his

pardoned soul is worthy of a place called paradise? (*Refrain*)

3. Are ye able when the shadows close around you with the sod, to believe that spirit triumphs, to commend your soul to God? (*Refrain*)

4. Are ye able? Still the Master whispers down eternity, and heroic spirits answer, now as then in Galilee. (*Refrain*)

WORDS: Earl Marlatt, 1926; MUSIC: Harry S. Mason, 1924, CCL12815228

# **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata (The World)* by Jan Bender

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## **Central United Methodist Church**

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**[www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://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**