



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday After the 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 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: As people, as a group, as a community of faith –

ALL: We gather together.

ONE: To listen.

ALL: To speak.

ONE: To worship.

ALL: To pray.

ONE: To be with God. Because we know –

ALL: It is out of God's authority, it is out of God's love, that we live. Alleluia!

(written by Richard Bott)

*OPENING HYMN

Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit (tune of UMH #108)

1. "Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!" cried God's healing Holy One."Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it. Flee as night before the sun." At Christ's words the demon trembled, from its victim madly rushed, while the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder, stunned and hushed.

2. God, the demons still are thriving, in the gray cells of the mind; tyrant voices, shrill and driving, twisted thoughts that

grip and bind, doubts that stir the heart to panic, fears distorting reason's sight, guilt that makes our loving frantic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

3. Silence, God, the unclean spirit in our mind and in our heart, speak your word that when we hear it, all our demons shall depart. Clear our thought and calm our feeling; still the fractured, warring soul. By the power of your healing, make us faithful, true and whole. MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams, 1890, CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

LITANY

*The Squeaky Wheel: A Litany for Being Close in Proximity to
and Advocating on Behalf of One's Neighbor*

Jim Bull

ONE: Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And Jesus said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to God's chosen ones who cry to God day and night? Will God delay long in helping them? I tell you, God will quickly grant justice to them.'

ALL: God of love, let us rest in our belovedness.

ONE: When we walk our neighborhoods, help us pay attention to the birds of the air and to the beauty of the flowers. To the ways the seasons change or don't, to the ways our neighborhoods change the longer we stay. Let us see the way people dress in certain times, the smells coming from houses and apartments, the shops and stores, the developments moving in. Help us pay attention to who is thriving and who is not. Who is being invested in, and who has been systematically shut out? Who owns the land? Who gets the deals to develop? Who profits off of progress? Who sends their kids to the local school and who does not? Who has options? Who is stuck in the middle of surviving?

Let us be troubled in our neighborhoods; let us be troubled in our lives. Help us be grateful for the beauty and help us not accept the inequality that can be found underneath nearly every surface. Let us pay attention to the cruelty of a system that values capital over people. Let us see the ones you love who have been left behind in the race to achieve the American Dream.

ALL: God of love, let us rest in the belovedness of our neighbors.

ONE: Let us not close our eyes, even – especially – when we want to. Let us notice what is closest to us, let it trouble us until we cannot help but speak out. Let us send emails to city council members on issues that affect the most marginalized. Let us pull aside our pastor for a few words on inclusivity, on recognizing the range of experiences and trauma within a congregation. Let us comment on the Facebook posts we see that dehumanize. Let us schedule meetings with developers and ask who will benefit from all of this progress. Let us always be thinking about who is not represented, who ultimately will pay the price for our decisions, policies and ask questions with a slightly shaky voice. Let us disrupt the cycles of power and affluence and autonomy with a singular, insistent focus. May we ask ourselves, *Who are our neighbors, and who isn't flourishing?* How can we advocate for their shalom?

ALL: God of love, let us rest in our belovedness.

ONE: Give us the grace to experience the pushback of people unused to being confronted with uncomfortable realities. Let us accept the title of divisive. Let us be difficult people to the ones whose lives are built by capitalizing on the disinvestment of others. Help us to love even those who are threatened by our consistent questions. Help us resist the temptation to numb out, to despair, to go silent in the face of our own complicity or corruption or ineffectiveness.

Remind us that there are unjust judges in the world who need persistent widows in order to change. Give us, your beloved people, the stamina to keep knocking on the doors of power, confident that our current reality is not your dream for the world.

Help us pray with our lives, our hands, our feet, our eyes. Help us pay attention. Help us keep speaking up, proclaiming that all is not well if it is only well for some. And let us find a glimpse of your justice in our lives and in our communities and wherever we can.

ALL: God, hear our prayers. Amen.

(Taken from the book "Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice by Britney Winn Lee)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Laura Burger

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

HYMN

Wounded World that Cries for Healing

TFWS #2177

1. Wounded world that cries for healing – here we hold each other's pain, wounded systems, bruised and bleeding bear the load, the scars of strain; dollars ration out compassion, hard decisions rule the day, Jesus of the healing spirit, free us to another way!
2. Through our nation's spent frustration, through the corridors of stress may there move a kindlier wisdom all may feel, and all may bless; tax and tithe are for a purpose shared to shield the poor and
3. Honor those whose loving spirit nurses hope, restores and heals, towel and basin used in service like the Christ who comes and kneels; in the tending, in the mending may we see the right and fair, in our common quest for wholeness heal each other by our care.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, ©1996 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:21-28 The Common English Bible

Val Ogbonnaya

Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.”

“Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Shut Up and Come Out!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

VIDEO

Preach by John Legend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0r1AJMK79g>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

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