



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

May 19, 2019

5th Sunday of Easter

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Handbell Choir

(The Prelude is a time for silent prayer and meditation. Please be respectful of this sacred time and space.)

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is Church: we know how to bind up the broken-hearted; we know courage; we know that love casts out fear. We know that “freedom is never voluntarily given up by the oppressor” and that “wait” has almost always meant “never” and that we must demand justice.

ALL: We will not be denied.

ONE: We will continue to teach the institutional church what it means to know God's unconditional love:

ALL: We will not give up.

ONE: We know that the pressure created by our movement forced Episcopal leadership to act in new ways:

ALL: We will keep the pressure on.

ONE: We will continue to insist that the denominational discrimination end:

ALL: It's past time for change.

ONE: We believe that the Biblical call to justice is greater than the United Methodist Book of Discipline:

ALL: We will practice Biblical Obedience.

ONE: We trust light “gets in at the broken places” and we are determined that light can show us the path forward:

ALL: We will radiate the light of God’s justice-love.

ONE: We honor those whose legacy has formed us, whose witness has empowered us, and we refuse to surrender:

ALL: We will be prisoners of hope!

written by Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* (adapted from UMH #62)

1. To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything sing your praises, alleluia! Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam, sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3. Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear, sing your praises, alleluia! Your fire, bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light, sings your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2. Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky sing your praises, alleluia! Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along, sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

4. To you, O God, day after day, your planet earth in every way, sings your praises, alleluia! As savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth your glory and your power, singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

WORDS: St. Francis of Assisi, 1225, Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993, CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Kaitlyn Szczyпка

ANTHEM

God is a Wonder to My Soul

Ensemble Choir

A RECONCILING CREED (adapted from A New Creed of the United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God who sustains all of creation. God, the Holy Spirit transcends all human categories, embraces all loving orientations: gay, straight, lesbian and bisexual; and celebrates all gender identities; traditional, transgender, and nonconforming. In love, God brings us together with others into perfect reconciliation by grace. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Spirituals Medley

Ensemble Choir

***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**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

CENTERING HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

UMH #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 11:1-18

Sylvia Oatley

The apostles and the brothers and sisters throughout Judea heard that even the Gentiles had welcomed God's word. When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him. They accused him, "You went into the home of the uncircumcised and ate with them!" Step-by-step, Peter explained what had happened. "I was in the city of Joppa praying when I had a visionary experience. In my vision, I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered from heaven by its four corners. It came all the way down to me. As I stared at it, wondering what it was, I saw four-legged animals – including wild beasts – as well as reptiles and wild birds. I heard a voice say, 'Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!' I responded, 'Absolutely, not, God! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth. The voice from heaven spoke a second time. 'Never consider unclean what God has made pure.' This happened three times, then everything was pulled back into heaven. At that moment three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we are staying. The Spirit told me to go with them even though they were Gentiles. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered that man's house. He reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. He will tell you how you and your entire household can be saved.' When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as the Spirit fell on us in the beginning. I remember Jesus' words: 'John will baptize with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit'. If God gave them the same gift given to us who believed in Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God's way?"

Once the apostles and other believers heard this, they calmed down. They praised God and concluded, "So then God has enabled Gentiles to change their hearts and lives so that they might have new life."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

You Don't Get to Choose!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

The Servant Song

TFWS 2222

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me
be as Christ to you; pray that I may
have the grace to let you be my servant,
too.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I
will share your joy and sorrow till
we've seen this journey through.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey; we're
together on this road. We are here to
help each other walk the mile and bear
the load.

5. When we sing to God in heaven, we
shall find such harmony, born of all
we've known together of Christ's love
and agony.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in
the night-time of your fear; I will hold
my hand out to you, speak the peace
you long to hear.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me
be as Christ to you; pray that I may
have the grace to let you be my servant,
too.

WORDS: Richard Gillard, MUSIC: Richard Gillard, ©1977 Scripture in Song, CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Ensemble Choir

POSTLUDE

Central United Methodist Church
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www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus
Rebecca Wilson, Director of Discipleship & Congregational Life
Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music
Nina Scott, Ensemble Director
Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent
Rod Rose, Custodian
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists
Kaitlyn Szczyпка, Nursery Coordinator