



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 7, 2021

5th 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

Video – *Because of Rosa Parks- We Can!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfLU3pJkrfY>

*OPENING HYMN

My Life Flows On

TFWS #2212

1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation. (*Refrain*)
2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing. (*Refrain*)
3. What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night God giveth. (*Refrain*)
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)

WORDS: Robert Lowry; MUSIC: Robert Lowry, CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

A PRAYER

Who Knows? by Safiyah Fosua

Who knows what signal,
what internal sentry,
prodded Rosa to sit when the bus driver said, “Get up and move.”

Was it her aching feet as some have said?

Was it her pounding head that could not wrap itself around the concept of such
inequality?

Or was it her aching heart, bruised from years of injury compounded with interest?
Perhaps, it was just impossible for her to walk any longer with the spiny pebble of
injustice in her shoe, in her life, in her spirit.

Only God knows the signal,
the sentry,
the prod required for each of us.

Oh God, let there be enough feeling left in me to feel your nudging when it comes.
Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Spencer

***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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON, Excerpts from Chapters One and Two of Genesis

Wil Marquis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. But the earth became chaos and
emptiness and darkness came over the face of the Deep – yet the Spirit of God was brooding
over the surface of the waters...Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our
image...Humankind was created as God’s reflection; in the divine image God created
them...So God fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils
the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God.

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to depend upon God's word.

WORDS: Andrae Crouch, 1971; MUSIC: Andrae Crouch, 1971; © 1971 Manna Music, Inc., CCLI2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 12:43-45

Wil Marquis

When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but it finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which it came.' When it comes, it finds it empty, swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the state of that person is worse than the first. So will it also with this evil generation.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*To Be In-Spired Again on Breath, Equity
and the Everyday Practice of Exorcism*

Rev. Dr. Jay Williams

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: Siblings in Christ, this is the mighty feast, the joyful feast, the holy feast of and for the people of God. This table represents a level of welcome, inclusion and imagery which can only be experienced through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have come from all walks of life. We have come from a life of privilege. We have come from a life of poverty. We have either come from a life of oppression or we are oppressors. We have come as financially stable. We have come with nothing. We have come with opportunity and new mercies. The one thing we all share at this table is that we come. Our prayer is that we come together because we are invited not by the church or the leaders but by Jesus himself. This is his table and he invites everyone.

God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ONE: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy. For you have called forth the creation and raising us from dust by your Spirit. We bless you for the beauty and bounty by which each of us was wonderfully made in your image. We thank you, God, for the gift of the indigenous people of Zimbabwe, Mali, Ghana, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, Libya, Senegal, Nigeria, Togo, Zambia and Haiti. There are many other places not mentioned but acknowledged for your astounding creation.

It is in our rejoicing that we give thanks for your creation of these your black children for their contributions to our being. Dr. Shirley Jackson for fiber-optic cable, for Lewis Latimer for carbon filament, for Marie Van Brittan Brown for –closed-circuit television

security, for Otis Boykin for the pacemaker, for Lonnie Johnson for the Super Soaker and thermoelectric energy converters, for Charles Drew for the blood bank, for Philip Emeagwali – a drop out, for the world’s fastest computer, for Jessie Wilkins, Jr. for the math behind gamma radiation, for Garret Morgan for the gas mask and the traffic signal and Mary and Mildred Davidson for women’s feminine products, the walker and the tissue holder.

Above all, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, your son and our Savior.

In our thanksgiving we say:

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

ONE: Christ was born fully human and fully divine. He shares in our joys and sorrows. He shared in the joy of resilience despite the deathly terror of the African enslavement and shared in the sorrow that his gospel didn’t compel transformation and quick abolition. He shared in the joy of the Emancipation Proclamation, but equally shared in the sorrow of a people who have worked so hard to override, overturn, and recreate that which it was designed to eradicate. He shares in the joy of a people in the presidency of Barack Obama yet shares in the sorrows of the Obama dolls hung from trees. Yet, and still Jesus offered his life in obedience and trust in God.

We bless you, O God, for the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit leads us into truth, fights for justice and equality, continues to gather us as believers even in the face of adversity and moves us to be empowered by your love. It is the movement of the Holy Spirit that allows us to trust in the life, death and resurrection which reconciles us to you.

On the night that he was wrongfully incarcerated, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it into pieces without the suggestion of privilege or supremacy. He gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, Jesus lifted the cup to those in need of liberation and empowerment saying, “This cup is the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.” Every time you eat this bread of equity and drink this cup that pours freedom, you proclaim with your life the saving death of the risen Christ until he comes again.

The bread of life given for you.

The cup of life poured out for you.

ALL: Amen.

VIDEO

Stand Up by Cynthia Enrivo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn19xvfoXvk>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

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