



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

December 8, 2019  
**Second Sunday in Advent**

## **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

## **EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS**

*We gather together to worship the One who is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.*

### **PRELUDE**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* by Johann Pachelbel

## **GATHERING: COMPASSION**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FOCUSING ON LOVING JOY**

#### **HYMN**

**Sing a new song to our God. Lift your hearts with gratitude. Sing a new song to our God. Lift your hearts with gratitude and Joy, Loving Joy.**

#### *Heaven and Nature Sing*

**Your steadfast love and faithfulness is ever present in our lives with Joy, Loving Joy.**

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**ONE:** Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth; break forth into grateful song and sing praises! Yes, sing songs of praise extolling Love's way; lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy!

## HYMN

We sing, we sing, joy to the world, heaven  
and nature sing, joy to the world, heaven  
and nature sing, with joy, Loving Joy.

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## THE WREATH

### OPENING PRAYER:

Advent 2: Let us pray: Holy God, you are the source of love. You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life. You are the one that helps us reach out in love, especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love. Help us when our fear gets in the way of joining the chorus of joy.

**ALL: Let us repeat the sounding joy in our hearts this day. Let us repeat the sounding joy in our church this day. Let us repeat the sounding joy in the world this day...in the name of Love. Amen.**

## HYMN

We sing, we sing, joy to the world, heaven  
and nature sing, joy to the world, heaven  
and nature sing, with joy, Loving Joy.

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### \*OPENING HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* adapted from UMH #213

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|--|--|
| 1. Lift up your hearts, O mighty gates;<br>behold the glorious Ruler waits! The<br>Sovereign One is drawing near; the<br>Savior of the world is here.      | 3. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart<br>to you; here, Christ, abide! Let me<br>your inner presence feel; your grace<br>and love in me reveal. |
| 2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;<br>make it a temple, set apart. From<br>earthly use for heaven's employ,<br>adorned with prayer and love and joy. | 4. So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let<br>new and nobler life begin; Your Holy<br>Spirit guide us on, until the glorious<br>crown be won.       |

Words: Georg Weissel, 17<sup>th</sup> cent; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855, Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789, CCLI 2815228

## PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD

As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being when the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it, for we hay the "joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts."

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart,  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

## THE CHILDREN'S TIME TO LEAD US

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

## SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

*Matthew 3:1-15*

Karai Jackson

ONE: Hear what the Spirit is Saying to the Church

ALL: Thanks be to God!

## THE WORD IN MUSIC

*The Gift of Love by Hal Hopson*

## SERMON

*Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## HYMN RESPONSE

*Love Has Come*

### 1. Love has come a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem  
skies. See, all heaven has come to  
proclaim it; hear how their song of joy  
arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a  
Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on  
high.

### 3. Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free. Love  
is Jesus within and among us. Love is  
the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of  
Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you,  
God on high!

### 2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder, love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

(From the Word & Song Hymnal), Words: Ken Bible, Music: Traditional French, © 1986 LNW hymns.com, admin by The Copyright Company, CCLI 2815228

## TRANSFORMATION IN OUR LIVES

*Connecting our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities – not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving strength and courage for all circumstances.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

**\*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

## **COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD**

*Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place “with passion” (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope and joy to the world.*

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth  
with peace; the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you; there'll be  
shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands.**

### *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

TFWS #2279

**And all the trees of the field will clap their  
hands, (clap, clap). The trees of the field  
will clap their hands, (clap, clap). The  
trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.**

Words: Steffi Geiser Ruben, Music: Stuart Dauermann, ©1975 Lillenas Publishing Co., admin by The Copyright Co., CCLI2815228

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **\*HYMN**

**We're gonna bring joy to the world, hope  
to the people, we're gonna give love that's  
for everyone-unconditionally! We're  
gonna make peace in our world, God's  
voice through us be heard. As we look to  
one another, a glimpse of holy we might  
see!**

**We're gonna bring joy to the world, hope  
to the people. We're gonna give love  
that's for everyone – unconditionally!  
We're gonna make peace in our world,  
God's voice through us be heard. As we  
look to one another, A glimpse of the holy  
we might see, A glimpse of the holy we  
might see, A glimpse of the holy we might  
see.**

**Joy, hope, peace and love....**

Words & Music by Marsha Jean Moors-Charles, Arr. by Caleb Collins, © 2019 Marsha Jean Moors-Charles, CCLI 2815228

### **POSTLUDE**

*Awaiting the Coming of the Bridegroom* by Paul Manz

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**Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor**

**Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus**

**Deaconess Anne Hillman, PhD, Director of Children, Youth, 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, Receptionists**

