



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 11, 2019

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

## 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

## INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." God, we have come to worship:

**ALL: Old and young, rich and poor, happy and discontent, at peace and restless, more or less full of faith, we come.**

ONE: We come curious about this "new thing" that you can do...

**ALL: Can you find a way through financial difficulties?**

**Can you find a way through loneliness and family tension?**

**Can you find a way through sickness and grief?**

**Can you find a way through every violence?**

ONE: We need living streams in the wasteland parts of our lives. In this hour of worship,

**ALL: Help us to see how you are there; streams of living water, cold, refreshing, abundant, unstoppable.**

ONE: We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*How Firm a Foundation*

adapted from UMH #529

1. How firm a foundation for you has been laid, by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid! What more can God say than to you has been said, to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

4. “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace all sufficient shall be your supply; the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.”

2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will still give you aid; I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”

5. “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I’ll never, no never, no, never forsake!” CCLI2815228

3. “When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of woe shall not over you flow; for I will be with you, your troubles to bless, delivering you from your deepest distress.”

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

**GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

ONE: We are people here like Peter sinking,

**ALL: We step out in faith because we want to follow you, but we fall short.**

ONE: We are afraid of what other people think of us.

**ALL: We are not sure we have the ability to do what you ask us,**

ONE: We think the job is too big for us.

**ALL: We are people here like Thomas doubting.**

ONE: We are not sure what it means to be a Christian.

**ALL: We are not sure what good it does to come to church.**

ONE: We are not sure what you can do in this world that is so wounded.

**ALL: We won’t take one step until we see the whole way ahead.**

ONE: We are people here like Mary weeping.

**ALL: We stand at the foot of the cross, where sin’s power does its worst.**

ONE: We weep for people who are persecuted for the color of their skin.

**ALL: We weep for people whose lives are shackled by poverty.**

ONE: We weep for people who hear the sound of gunshots aimed at them.

**ALL: We weep for all who are tortured.**

ONE: We are your people here at worship.

**ALL: Fill us with your grace and power to be your disciples,**

ONE: To be faithful, to be true, to be filled with love to the end.

**ALL: We ask this in your name, Amen.**

## 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

### \*CENTERING HYMN

*Through It All* (two times)

UMH #507

**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, MUSIC: Andrae Crouch, © 1971 Manna Music, Inc. CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

*Hebrews 11: 8-16*

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going.

By faith he lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise. He was looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith even Sarah received the ability to have a child, though she herself was barren and past the age for having children, because she believed that the one who promised was faithful. So descendants were born from one man (and he was as good as dead). They were as many as the number of the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore. All of these people died in faith without receiving the promises, but they saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them. They confessed that they were strangers and immigrants on earth. People who say this kind of thing make it clear that they are looking for a homeland. If they had been thinking about the country they had left, they would have had the opportunity to return to it. But at this point in time, they are longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God isn't ashamed to be called their God – he has prepared a city for them.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

SONG

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

*It's Ok for New Things to Happen*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*You Are Mine*

TFWS #2218

**1. I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, Be still and know I am here. (Refrain)**

**(Refrain) Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.**

**2. I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, Come and rest in me. (Refrain)**

WORDS: David Haas, MUSIC: David, © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.  
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## **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Come Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire* by Paul Manz

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Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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