



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 13, 2019

## Environmental Justice Sunday

### 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

*For the Beauty of the Earth* by Lawrence Curry

### INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God has created a world of beauty, diversity and such enoughness; a world designed to perpetuate beauty and to recycle wastes endlessly as essential ingredients for new life.

**ALL: We come to praise God for that great gift.**

ONE: We come knowing that it is not enough to provide for ourselves but we need to act wisely so that all life and all ecosystems are sustained, so that our posterity can be sustained and we can live abundantly.

**ALL: We come to learn and then go forth to walk in the ways of sustainability.**

ONE: Through the prophets and through Jesus, God has made clear the mandate for justice for all people and for all of creation.

**ALL: We come to renew our commitment to work for justice for all people and for all of creation.**

ONE: Our God has created this day!

**ALL: Let us celebrate what God has done.**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**     *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

UMH #152

**1. I sing the almighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies, I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**3. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known, and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne; while all that borrows life from Thee is ever in thy care, and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God are present there.**

**2. I sing the goodness of our God who filled the earth with food, who formed the creatures through the Word and then pronounced them good. God, how thy wonders are displayed, wher-e'er I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.**

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715, MUSIC: Trad. English melody;  
arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, CCLI2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

**GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDRENS TIME**

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D.

**PRAYER**

Jim Bull

**ONE:** You created a world of amazing abundance. There is such a sufficiency in what Your hand has wrought.

**ALL:** **Forgive us for the times we have been blind to that enoughness.**

**ONE:** Too often we hoard resources, while people go hungry and our fellow creatures look in vain for habitat to sustain themselves, and we have produced systems that poison the earth.

**ALL:** **Help us to live in harmony with the systems you created that sustain life and produce it more abundantly.**

ONE: Open our eyes to the elegant systems you created, embodied in trees that put out exorbitant flowers and fruits, yet produce no toxins, and use what is left over to grow and bear fruit again; that produce leaves that capture sunlight energy, turn color, then fall to the ground to become nutrients to grow more trees.

**ALL: Help us to emulate that tree wisdom as we build a better world following your example.**

ONE: Help us to listen and heed the warnings of Climate Scientists, who are modern prophets calling us to wake up and take bold actions necessary to care for our planet home and the future generations of all species. Forgive us for our failure to see what is before our eyes, and our arrogance for thinking we know better than you.

**ALL: In your love, help us find the way to sustainable, loving, abundant living for all, and the courage to walk that difficult path.**

ONE: We pray this in the name of Jesus, who lived, died and lives in us to give us that change.

**ALL: Amen.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

**OFFERTORY**                      *For the Beauty of the Earth*, arr. Sally DeFord                      Chancel 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

ONE: We consecrate these gifts and our lives to one great good.

**ALL: Tuning our lives to the sustaining power of your creation, that all people and all creatures may have enough.**

ONE: Loving God, we accept responsibility

**ALL: To work for peace and justice for all.**

ONE: Nurturing God, we commit ourselves

**ALL: To see the body of Christ, bringing healing and reconciliation to a hurting world, and to be good stewards of all of your creation. Amen.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

**\*CENTERING HYMN**

*Solar Carol*

(Sung to the tune of Angels, We Have Heard on High UMH #238)

Words by: Adam Austill, Court Dorsey, Charlie King, Marcia Taylor and Jim Bull (last verse)

**1. See the sun how bright it shines on the nations of the earth all who share this thing called life celebrate each day's rebirth. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* So-o-lar power, inexpensive energy, So-o-lar power, inexpensive energy.

**2. Brother River, so you hear how the valley calls you down. Send your rushing waters near, let the joyful hills resound. (Refrain)**

**3. Sister Wind, we've heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plain; join the Sun in Jubilee, Sing with us this joyous strain. (Refrain)**

**4. Thank God for Earth and Sun, which supply our every need. For creativity and love, saving us from want and greed. (Refrain)**

**ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

*Acts 17:22-31* The Inclusive New Testament

Byron Washington

Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address: "Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious. As I walked about looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, 'To an Unknown God.' Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you.

"For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn't live in sanctuaries made by human hands, and isn't served by humans, as if in need of anything. NO! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath – everything. From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell. God did this so that human beings would seek, reach out for and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us – the One in whom we live and move and have our being. As one of your poets has put it, 'We too are God's children.'

"If we are in fact children of God, then it's inexcusable to think that the Divine Nature is like an image of gold, silver or stone – an image formed by the art and thought of mortals. God, who over looked such ignorance in the past, now commands all people everywhere to reform their lives. For a day has been set when the whole world will be judged with justice. And this judge, who is a human being, has already been appointed. God has given proof of all of this by raising this judge from the dead."

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

## SONG

Bobbi Thompson

## MESSAGE

*The Green New Deal*

Rep. Rashida Tlaib and Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Here I Am, God*

UMH #593

1. I, the God of earth and sky, I have heard my people cry, all who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

*Refrain for verses 1-3:*

Here I am God, is it I, God, I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, God, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the God of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain, I have wept for love of them, they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send?  
*(Refrain)*

3. I, the God of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them, my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them, whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

*(Verse 4 written by James Bull)*

4. I, the God of Wind and Sun, of Climate Crisis now begun, I sent scientists to warn, they were ignored, youth cry out, "Do not fail! Sustainability shall prevail! Who will act for them? Whom shall I send? Here I am God, is it I, God, I have heard you calling in the night, I will go, God, if you lead me, I will hold this planet in my heart.

WORDS: Dan Schutte, 1981, MUSIC: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988, © 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR, CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

*God Be in my Head* by John Rutter

## POSTLUDE

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**Central United Methodist Church**  
**23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226**  
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**[www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://www.centralumchurchdetroit.org)**

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

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## **Our Guest Speaker this morning:**



**Rep. Rashida Tlaib**, a long-time friend of Central, represents the 13<sup>th</sup> district of Michigan in the US House of Representatives. Before that she served the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> districts in the Michigan House of Representatives and worked as an attorney for the Sugar Law Center, which supports low income workers, their families, and communities. She is one of the earliest sponsors of the Green New Deal bill and is a tireless advocate for social and environmental justice. She received Detroit Audubon's President's Award for environmental leadership at a banquet held at Central in the spring of 2017.

## **FORUM 12 NOON—Kelly Eubanks of Detroit Sunrise on “LOCAL ACTION FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL.”**

**Location: Central's Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery**

Sunrise is the national youth group that is a chief sponsor of Climate School Strikes and coordinates actions to get the Green New Deal adopted. Other Climate strikers may join her.

