



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

October 25, 2020  
21 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**

Daniel Dillingham

**INTROIT**

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are made in the likeness of Eternal Creativity.

**ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.**

ONE: Its insistence moves us into being and imagines for us worlds beyond our hopelessness.

**ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.**

ONE: We are made to collaborate with those around us to build deeper connections and sustainability around new ways of doing life together.

**ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.**

ONE: We are making space in our world for doubt and uncertainty by calling our out fear and isolationism.

**ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.**

ONE: This is the truth about us. It always has been and always will be.

**ALL: A new world is both here and arriving. We wait for it, usher it, greet it as a hopeful people. Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*God of All Peoples*

(Tune UMH #145)

1. God of all peoples, cultures and nations.  
God of the poor and wealthy ones, too –  
be with our land as we make decisions;  
help us, we pray, to listen to you.

2. May we hear well your call to do justice;  
may we know all your children have  
worth. May we seek leaders who will  
end violence; may we choose ones who  
care for your earth.

3. May we be thoughtful in our decisions;  
who will be truthful, moral and wise?  
Who will restore the streets that we live  
in? Who will love those whom others  
despise?

4. How will the ones campaigning to lead  
us care for the stranger, outcast and  
poor? Will they hear ones who long  
have been silenced? Or will they say that  
wealth matters more?

5. God, may this time of anger be over; may  
we grow past our current divide. Make  
us as one, as sisters and brothers; In this  
good land, may your love abide.

Tune: Traditional Gaelic melody Text: Copyright © 2016, by Carolyn  
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## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ONE: Again and again you call us to care for widows and orphans, to advocate for those in prison, to welcome the strangers.

**ALL: God, we hear your call, but all around us we hear the cry that there is not enough for all, and that some are undeserving.**

ONE: Again and again you call us to love you with our whole heart, understanding and strength; such love demands that we seek justice for those who are oppressed, poor and forgotten.

**ALL: God, we hear your call but all around us are competing calls of worldly loyalties, political parties, and public acclaim.**

ONE: Again and again, you urge us to seek you first. We long to trust the path of love for you and our neighbors as ourselves.

**ALL: Yet we fear that our “land of milk and honey” has become a land of moral famine and economic hardship, and we wonder at times if you have abandoned us.**

ONE: Again and again throughout this election season, we have seen the divisions in this nation become great.

**ALL: At times, we have been more inclined to debate than pray.**

ONE: Again and again you urge us not to lean on our own understanding but in all our ways to acknowledge you, and yet

**ALL: we are often distracted by the clamor of fear dressed up as reason.**

ONE: As we prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming elections, at times we forget to observe your statutes of compassion and your ordinances of justice.

**ALL: Again, you remind us to follow you, so that it may go well for us, our neighbors, our nation and our world.**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: Siblings in Christ, God is at work in us and with us! We know that you are the one who lifts up those who are bowed down. We know that you promise to uphold us, and yet,

**ALL: again and again, we get caught up in the ways of those who put their trust in politicians, power-brokers and pundits instead of the Ruler of Peace.**

ONE: Hear the word of God for this season and all seasons: “Do not be afraid! I will never leave you or forsake you.” Know that our God who began a good work in us is able to complete it. As we open ourselves to the Spirit of God, may we see more fully the wonder of God already at work in us.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Siblings in Christ, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us: “I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. The invitation to bring our tithes, pledges and offerings is an invitation to support one another, those within this community and beyond, to become all of what we are called to be. Our tithes, pledges and offerings – both monetary and other – enable us to give thanks to God for the resources we have been given and enable us to be resources for others. As we give to this ministry, we help others become what they can be and we become more of what we can be. Give generously and watch the miracles of God unfold in our lives and our ministry together. I invite you to the 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**

Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far be blessed. Amen.

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### CENTERING HYMN

*God, Help the Politicians*

(Tune UMH #545)

1. God, help the politicians who govern far and near, from small towns to the cities, may justice persevere. May each speak words of kindness and have humility and do their work together with honor and with civility.
2. May they make just decisions based off what's true and right. Let words of wisdom flow out of every bill they write. And may they work with passion to serve the common good, to help us live together and do the things we should.
3. God, we are so frustrated with all that's taken place. We struggle to have hope when we see so much disgrace. Help us to fix what's broken; make us courageous, too. And may your people truth in the truth we find in you.
4. Legality and justice are not always the same. May all the politicians make righteousness their aim. Renew our love for mercy; may truth inform our laws and help our public servants to serve the common cause.

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864, Text Stephen M. Fearing, 2018, CCLI2815228

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### GOSPEL LESSON

*Luke 6:20-23*

The Inclusive Bible

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said, "You who are poor are blessed for the reign of God is yours. You who hunger now are blessed, for you'll be filled. You who weep now are blessed, for you'll laugh. You are blessed when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One. On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

### MESSAGE

*Jesus and the Vote*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

### VIDEO

*Vote by Conscious Collective*

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

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**Central United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Nina Scott, Ensemble Director & Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist