



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

May 16, 2021

Ascension 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

Daniel Dillingham

## INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Why are we looking up to heaven?

**ALL: Christ has come; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

ONE: Why are we looking ahead to the future?

**ALL: The Holy Spirit is among us now. In our baptism, we have already died and risen with Christ.**

ONE: Why are we afraid of death and dying?

**ALL: God's love casts out our fear.**

ONE: Why are we afraid to follow Jesus?

**ALL: In Christ we have the promise of new life now, eternal life to come. In Christ, we join our hearts to worship God, who has prepared for us to enter the reign of God.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* adapted from UMH #154

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Christ servant of all. Attend the Savior's sovereign claim and crown Christ servant of all.
2. Adorn, O martyred saints of old, the coronation hall; Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all. Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.
3. All heirs of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall, proclaim the wonders of God's grace and crown Christ healer of all. Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all.
4. Before the cross, with heaven's throne, we on our knees shall fall. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **PRAYER OF BROKENNESS/CONFESSION**

**Creator God, we confess that at times we are stuck. We are unable to move forward and only can look back on what once was. We wonder where You are leading us, as it seems we are alone. Help us to become unstuck. Help us to move by faith, to trust that You are with us, guiding us along the way. Call to us so we will follow Your ways. Encourage us to live into hope instead of frozen in fear. Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, help us in this journey of life and faith, now and always. Amen.**

(written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution)

### **BLESSING/ASSURANCE** from Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Know that the peace of God is with you. You are loved by God. Sink into that knowledge and allow God's wisdom and inside to fill your mind so that you might live into faith. Amen.

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

Laura Burger

**\*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

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## HYMN

*O God, May We Hold On to Love*

Tune UMH #408

1. O God may we hold onto love – and in the times when love is lost, send down your mercy like a flood and show us love is worth the cost.
2. When righteous anger fills our plate and harms us – body, mind and soul – may we forgive and so create a feast that makes the wounded whole.
3. May we let go of might-have-beens and leave regrets and choose to live. We give you all our pain and sins – for you will heal, and you forgive!
4. May we push back at all the fear that, like a storm, is raging round. May we work hard for justice here till walls of hate come tumbling down.
5. God, give us grace to set aside the things that hurt and tear apart, til we find love has opened wide a path to life, a whole new start.

Tune: Traditional English Melody

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# ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

**NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE**      *Acts 1:1-11*      The Inclusive Bible      Janet Moody

In my earlier account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, from the beginning until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles – confirmed through many convincing proofs – over the course of forty days and spoke to them about the reign of God.

On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. “Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak,” Jesus said. “John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

While meeting together they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?”

Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. “You Galileans – why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus who has been taken from you – this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*While We Wait*

Rev Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**VIDEO**

*While I’m Waiting* by John Waller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gjXBMC8-oM>

## 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

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

Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music and Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists