



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday



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: Do you remember your last supper before the pandemic?

The last meal you had out at a restaurant with friends?

The last meal before fear and anxiety ran the conversation?

If you had known it was your last, would you have lingered?

Would you have ordered dessert?

Would you have held your friends' hands and told them how much you loved them?

If you had known, would you have washed their feet?

Tonight as we gather together, because this night was the beginning of the end.

This night was Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

Take a moment to imagine how Jesus must have felt.

(Moment of Silence)

Friends, with all of this in mind, I invite you to join me in our opening words.

ALL: Tonight we will hear, again and again, of a love that knows no bounds. May we be fully present here. May we worship a holy God.

***OPENING HYMN**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess; and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease; be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son, as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.
6. Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name, our common life embraces all whose Marker is the same.

ACTS OF SHARING

CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: The closer and closer we get to the crucifixion, the more earnest our prayers of confession feel. For we know that what was done to Jesus –
Betrayal, humiliation, violence and death –
Are things we do to each other all the time.

So with all earnestness, a sense of urgency, and a deep hope for transformation,
We return to this prayer once again,
Trusting that the God who holds the stars in the sky is holding us tonight.
Let us confess together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, who holds us together,
If I were to place myself at your table, I would probably be Peter –
Misunderstanding your radical hospitality,
sticking to the rules,
arguing for what I do and don't deserve.**

**Then again, it's possible that I'd be Judas –
The one who betrayed you,
The one who failed to see the good right in front of him,
The one who might have thought he wasn't worthy of your love.**

**If I were to place myself at your table,
It's possible I would be one of the unnamed disciples –
Watching, but not speaking,
Silently missing the opportunity
To tell you what I believe and how much I love you.**

**If I were to place myself at your table,
I am confident that I would have made the same mistakes
Your well-intentioned disciples made.**

**There is no surprise there.
What is surprising is that I know you would have washed my feet nonetheless.
So forgive me, God.
Wash not just my feet, but my hands and my head also. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Family of faith, Jesus knew that Peter would deny.
He knew that Judas would betray.
And he knew the disciples would hide in fear.
And still – *and still* – he invited them in.
He washed their feet, and he fed them.

Friends, we worship the living Christ whose love shocks, surprises, and far exceeds our understanding of love. So may this story tonight remind us:

ALL: No matter who we are, no matter where we go, no matter how great our mistakes or regrets are in life, we will always be invited in and help together by the Living God. Again and again and again, we are held. Amen.

HYMN

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

Adapted from UMH #557

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear. And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jesus of Nazareth,

If the disciples had known that the last supper would be their last meal with you
Before the crucifixion, I bet they would have listened differently.

I bet they would have put down their arguments,

And leaned in with their whole bodies.

I bet they would have asked questions

And halted the small talk.

I bet they would have taken notes and hung on your every word.

Jesus of Nazareth, I want to listen like that.

I want to listen like tonight might be the last time you speak.

I want to listen like everything could change tomorrow.

I want to listen like my soul depends on it.

So gracious God, clear away anything in me that might distract.

Clear away anything in me that might hinder my hearing and receiving of your word.

I am listening. We are listening. With hope and honesty we pray. Amen.

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was.

The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus – knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God – rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said, “Rabbi, you’re not going to wash my feet, are you?”

Jesus answered, “You don’t realize what I am doing right now but later you’ll understand.”

Peter replied, “You’ll never wash my feet!”

Jesus answered, “If I don’t wash you, you have no part with me.”

Simon Peter said to Jesus, “Then, Rabbi, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!”

Jesus said, “Any who have taken a bath are clean all over and only need to wash their feet – and you’re clean, though not every one of you.” For Jesus knew who was to betray him. That is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me ‘Teacher,’ and ‘Sovereign’ – and rightly, for so I am. If I, then, your Teacher and Sovereign – have washed your feet, you should wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

The truth of the matter is, no subordinate is greater than the superior; no messenger outranks the sender. Once you know all these things, you’ll be blessed if you put them into practice.

Once Judas left, Jesus said, “Now is the Chosen One glorified and God is glorified as well. If God has been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. My little children, I won’t be with you much longer. You’ll look for me but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you; where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment; Love one another. And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you’re my disciples; that you truly love one another.”

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to God.

ONE: Let us give thank to our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ONE: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From the earth you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You fed us manna in the wilderness, and gave grapes as evidence of the promised land.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

ONE: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. When we had turned aside from your way and abused your gifts, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Emptying himself, that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet, and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my life poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

ONE: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his life. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

VIDEO

Fall Apart Too by Katelyn Tarver
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6btoP-ZKH4>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm-
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. Amen.

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