



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent/Transfiguration 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: Today in worship, we will be reminded that again and again, we are called to listen. This is part of our invitation as people of faith – to not only speak, pray and sing, but to listen. And I will be the first to say, listening is hard. From our toddler years on up, we struggle to listen, particularly when we don't know what we're listening for or we don't agree with what we're hearing.

So, for just a moment, as we gather ourselves for worship, I want to invite you to join me in a kinesthetic call to worship by embodying our prayer as I prompt you. Let us listen, let us pray:

Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes. Rest your feet on the floor beneath you. Release any tension you are holding – In your jaw, your neck, your shoulders, your hands, your legs, your feet.

Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out.

The Hebrew word for breath (ruach) is the same word for Spirit.

So as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love.

Trust that God is as close as your very breath.

Now I invite you to still your mind. Imagine your mind as a river.

Thoughts will drift into view; they always do.

However, instead of holding onto those thoughts, allow yourself to let them float by.

And listen.

Listen deep.

Listen far.

Listen wide.

Listen.

The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine. This is a holy space. Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN *Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory* TFWS #2102 (Tune: UMH #89)

1. Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, heaven's voice, the dazzling light; Moses and Elijah vanish; Christ alone commands the height! Peter, James and John fall silent, turning from the summit's rise downward toward the shadowed valley where Jesus has fixed his eyes.
2. Glimpsed and gone the revelation, they shall gain and keep its truth, not by building on the mountain any shrine or sacred booth, but by following the Savior through the valley to the cross and by testing faith's resilience through betrayal, pain and loss.
3. God, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines and recast our life's intentions to the shape of your designs, til we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary's hill and our living and our dying and our rising by your will.

WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger; Words © 1994 Oxford University Press;
MUSIC: Ludwig van Bethoven, 1824; arr. by Edward Hodges, 1864;
CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: Often the first step to change is listening.
We have to listen to those we've hurt.
We have to listen to creation as she cries.
We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed,
If we ever hope to make things right.

So today as we bring our prayer of confession,
We will start with a moment of silence –
A moment to listen.
And then we will pray together trusting that God is always listening to us,
And that God's ears listen with love.

So let us confess, silently and then together.

(Silent Prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: Listening God,

ALL: Take what is closed in us and open it.

Take what is distracted in us and settle it.

Take what is hurting in us and hold it.

Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.

For we are like Peter, O God.

We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see.

And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.

So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.

We long to hear you more clearly.

We long to know you more fully.

With hope we pray,

And with gratitude we confess.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Siblings in Christ, we confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us. No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand. So rest in this good news.

ALL: God invites us in. God meets us where we are. God hears our prayers. God forgives us.

ONE: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

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

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

There is a Time for Silence

(Tune: UMH #297)

1. There is a time for silence, a time to listen well, a time to hear the painful stories others have to tell. O God, may we who love to talk now hear the rage, the fear, and may we learn from neighbors who have long been silenced here.
2. There is a time for asking, a time to pause and pray, there is a time to hear the prophets speak of God's new day, to hear the words of Jesus who taught welcome, truth and love, to hear the Spirit speaking through the ones who shout, "Enough"!
3. There's time for humble study – for reading and for thought. God, may we learn from others of the justice they have sought, and may we learn from those who bravely stand against the hate, so when we're called to justice, we, your church, won't hesitate.
4. There's time for good reflection, to ponder who we've been, to think how our own attitudes have paved the way for sin, to listen to the ones we fear – to folks we may resent – to hear of Jesus' call to love – and humbly to repent.
5. And there's a time to work now – to boldly say their names, to protest and to organize, to advocate for change, to use our voices and to stand with those who are oppressed. As we seek justice, hand in hand, God, may your world be blessed.

Tune: Frederick Charles Marker, 1881 ("Beneath the Cross of Jesus"); Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, All Rights Reserved; MUSIC: Frederick C. Marker, 1881; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Karai Jackson

Creator God, we cannot hear the trees growing – seeds pushing up through the dirt into the sun.
And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many.
We cannot hear the weight of people’s grief, a burden that so often is silent.
And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can.
You hear it all.

So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts,
Asking that you would lend us your ears.
Help us to hear as you hear to that we can live as you lived.
We are listening. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31 – 9:8 The Inclusive Bible Karai Jackson

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this Jesus turned around, and eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter. “Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God’s!”

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you’ll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you’ll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose yourself in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory.”

Jesus also said to them, “The truth is, some of you standing here won’t taste death before you see God’s reign established in power.”

Six days after that, Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.

And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, the clothes Jesus wore became dazzling white – whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.

Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses and the two were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. “Rabbi” he said, “how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!” Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud. This is my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One. Then suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore – only Jesus.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Again and Again: We Are Called to Listen Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

VIDEO

Listen by Kyshona Armstrong
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pukj8VLdYfw>

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.

Central United Methodist Church

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

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