



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 21, 2021  
First Sunday in Lent

## 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: God meets us in the night –

**ALL: Before the sun rises, before the wounds heal, before there are answers, before there is closure.**

ONE: God meets us in the light –

**ALL: Where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, and where people gather around the table.**

ONE: God meets us at the threshold –

**ALL: At the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**

ONE: And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us in between –

**ALL: Staying with us through the wilderness.**

ONE: We are not alone. God is all around.

**ALL: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*God is Here*

UMH #660

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
2. Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the spirit comes to each.
3. Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
4. God of all, of church and kin-dom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out, here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1978; MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941; Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.; music ©1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF SHARING

### GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: Again and again God meets us where we are. God's love knows no bounds which is hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget. Therefore, in confession, we remember that we are not alone. And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder. Family of faith, please pray with me.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: God who meets us where we are – there is nowhere we can go that you are not.

**ALL: You were with Jesus at his baptism. You were with him in the wilderness, and even in between, you were there, saying aloud, "This is my beloved."**

ONE: We know that you are with us too – in the good, the bad and everything in between – but so often we act like we are alone.

**ALL: Instead of coming to you with our joy, we credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

ONE: How can we long for a deeper relationship with you while living like you are nowhere to be found?

**ALL: Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.**

ONE: You are the God who meets us where we are.

**ALL: Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

ONE: Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this: God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning. And God calls you beloved.

**ALL: We are washed by the water. We are called beloved. 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**

*Guide My Feet*

TFWS #2208

1. Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!
2. Hold my hand while I run this race, Hold my hand while I run this race, Hold my hand while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!
3. Stand by me while I run this race, Stand by me while I run this race, Stand by me while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!
4. I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!
5. Search my heart while I run this race, Search my heart while I run this race, Search my heart while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!
6. Guide my feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!

# ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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 so that we can live as you lived.

We are listening.

Amen.

## GOSPEL LESSON

*Mark 1:9-15*

The Inclusive Bible

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

## THEME SONG

*Again and Again*

## MESSAGE

*Again and Again God Meets Us*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## VIDEO

*Where Jesus Was* by the Many

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-miIsMnbLo>

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

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### Central United Methodist Church

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

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

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