



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

January 24, 2021
Third Sunday After the Epiphany

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: The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ. "Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

ALL: We come to this place, to this time, at the invitation of Jesus Christ.

ONE: In the name of Christ,

ALL: We accept the invitation to discipleship.

ONE: In the name of Christ,

ALL: As his disciples, we worship and praise God.

ONE: In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

ALL: We proclaim the God of Compassion.

ONE: In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples,

ALL: We proclaim the God of Hope.

ONE: In the mist of indifference and apathy,

ALL: We proclaim the God of Love.

ONE: Come, let us worship together and share our witness of God's living presence in the world. (from the *On Earth Peace* website)

*OPENING HYMN

Lord of the Dance

UMH #261

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth. *(Refrain)*

3. I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame, the holy people said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they left me there on a cross to die. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on. *(Refrain)*

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came to me and the dance went on. *(Refrain)*

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Sydney Carter, 1963; MUSIC: 19TH CENT. Shaker tune; adapt. by Sydney Carter, 1963; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988; © 1963, 1989 Galliard, Ltd.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

LITANY FOR THE SMALL AND LARGE DECISIONS IN OUR DAY TO DAY

ONE: Just and loving God, our hearts ache over what is broken. A holy anger sparks and burns in our chests. We refuse to give way to cynicism and despair.

ALL: We will call forth shalom.

ONE: May we see the resources we have as plenty: Clothing, food, supplies, money, time. Let us see how these resources can be shared.

ALL: We will be generous and giving.

ONE: Contemptuous words come up at the dinner table, on the street, in the supermarket, at work. May we not comply to hatred with our silence.

ALL: We will respond with wisdom and grace.

ONE: We want our children to have a better world. They will learn to speak truth and see humanity so they can be peacemakers and prophets and healers.

ALL: We will raise them to love.

ONE: When the authorities and systems of the land prey on the weak and demonize the different, when they peddle fear and use it for power,

ALL: We will gather and raise our voices.

ONE: Precious in your eyes are the sons and daughters whose lives were taken because of skin color, sexual orientation, gender, religion, politics.

ALL: We will say their names and remember.

ONE: Many of our siblings suffer in silence because they fear their stories will not be believed. We declare that their voices matter.

ALL: We will listen to their stories.

ONE: Let there be a table instead of walls, a seat for the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, and even a seat for my enemy.

ALL: We will make space for one another.

ONE: The groaning does not stop, and the headlines bleed. While we strive not to let discouragement take over,

ALL: We will not look away.

ONE: We choose acts of life instead of death, Expressions of mercy and radical faith in the *and yet*, believing in the restoration of all things.

ALL: We will show up with hope. Amen. (Taken from the book *“Rally, Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice”*).

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Chantel Woodard

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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

TFWS #2129

1. I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.

3. Though none go with me, still I will follow, though none go with me, still I will follow, though none go with me, still I will follow, no turning back, no turning back.

2. The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back, no turning back.

WORDS: Anon.; MUSIC: Anon.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:14-20 The Common English Bible

Ruth Biersdorf

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kin-dom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me" he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

All In!

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

VIDEO

All In by Matthew West

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUc86gfzToU>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

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Debra Cox, Office Administrator

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