



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 25, 2019

Women's Equality 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

Shoulder to Shoulder (Suffragette Song)

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (written by Jesse Palatucci)

ONE: Wisdom is telling her story in the midst of her people:

ALL: "I came forth from the heart of the Most High", she says.

ONE: "Alone I searched for a place to rest.

ALL: I looked everywhere to find a place to live."

ONE: Then the Creator of all things instructed me:

ALL: "Pitch your tent here in this place."

ONE: So in the beloved community I took up residence.

ALL: I have taken root in these people.

ONE: I have grown tall as an oak tree,

ALL: I have taken on many colors.

ONE: I have spread out my branches like a candelabra.

ALL: My blossoms bear the fruit of openness and care. Approach, and take your fill."

ONE: Come, let us seek Wisdom at work in all lives,

ALL: And especially in the lives of her daughters!

***OPENING HYMN**

Welcoming God (sung to the tune of Blessed Assurance)

- 1. Children are welcome, Christ said one day, when the disciples just urged them away. Children are welcome at Jesus' knee: God's own examples for ministry. Welcoming God, you open the Way; even the smallest worship and pray, singing with faith and serving you well, your life to know and good news to tell.**
- 2. Women are welcome, as are the men; through God's own Spirit, we're partners again. Partners as prophets, ministers, too: no more divided – made one in you. Welcoming God, you open the way; those once divided join now to pray, serving at Table, preaching your Word, so that your love for all will be heard.**
- 3. Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too, eating with Jesus and being made new; some like Zacchaeus turned right around; wounded and poor ones felt peace profound. God of great love, you stand at the door, welcoming people outcast and poor. So you forgive and call us to be filled with the joy of your jubilee.**
- 4. So may we welcome into our pew all who in Jesus are being made new – all those who seek him, wanting to know, wanting to love him, wanting to grow. welcoming God, you stand at our door, as someone different, outcast or poor. With longing eyes, Sweet Jesus, you search. May we all welcome you in your church.**

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Tune: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873
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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Anne Hillman

A LITANY TO HONOR WOMEN (Written by Ruth Perry)

ONE: We walk in the company of the women who have gone before,

Mothers of the faith both named and unnamed,

Testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of wisdom and healing.

They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, poets, lovers and saints who are near to us in the shadow of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams.

We walk in the company of Deborah,

ALL: Who judged that Israelites with authority and strength

ONE: We walk in the company of Esther,

ALL: Who used her position as Queen to ensure the welfare of her people.

ONE: We walk in the company of you whose names have been lost and silenced,

ALL: Who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

ONE: We walk in the company of the woman with the flow of blood,

ALL: Who audaciously sought her healing and release.

ONE: We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene,

ALL: Who wept at the empty tomb until the risen Christ appeared.

ONE: We walk in the company of Phoebe,

ALL: Who led an early church in the empire of Rome.

ONE: We walk in the company of Julian of Norwich,

ALL: Who wed imagination and theology proclaiming “all shall be well.”

ONE: We walk in the company of Sojourner Truth,

ALL: Who stood against oppression, righteously declaring, “Ain’t I a woman!”

ONE: We walk in the company of Alice Walker,

ALL: Who named the lavender hue of womanish strength.

ONE: We walk in the company of you mothers of the faith,

ALL: Who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom and to heal. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Hear My Prayer by Antonin Dvorak

Laura Burger – Soprano

***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**

***CENTERING HYMN** *Rise Up Women! (Sung to the Tune of Battle Hymn of the Republic)*

**Rise up, women, for the fight is hard and long;
Rise up in the thousands singing loud a battle song.
Right is might, and in strength we shall be strong
And the cause goes marching on.**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! The cause goes marching on.**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 3:26-28

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

Black Women Suffragettes

Narrator: Maureen Taylor

SONG:

Keep Woman in Her Sphere

(Sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne)

- 1. I have a neighbor, one of those Not very hard to find who know it all without debate and never change their mind. I asked him “What of woman’s rights?” He said in tones severe – “My mind on that is all made up, keep woman in her sphere.**
- 2. I saw a man in tattered garb forth from the grog-shop come he squandered all his cash for drink and starved his wife at home. I asked him, “Should not woman vote”. He answered with a sneer – “I’ve taught my wife to know her place, keep woman in her sphere.”**
- 3. I met an earnest, thoughtful man not many days ago who pondered deep all human law the honest truth to know. I asked him “What of woman’s cause?” The answer came sincere – “Her rights are just the same as mine. Let woman choose her sphere.**

Reader One: Helen Monroe
Angelina Weld Grimke
Sarah Redmond

Song

The New America (Sung to the tune of My Country Tis of Thee)

- 1. Our country, now from thee claim we
our liberty in freedom's name.
Guarding home's altar fires.
Daughters of patriot sires. Their zeal
our own inspires justice to claim**
- 2. Women in every age for this great
heritage tribute have paid. Our birth-
right claim we now longer refuse to
bow on Freedom's altar now our hand
is laid.**
- 3. Sons will you longer see mothers on
bended knee for justice pray? Rise
now, in manhood's might with earth's
great souls unite to speed the dawning
light of freedom's day.**

Narrator: Maureen Taylor

Reader Two: Yvonne Paramore

Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin

Naomi Talbert

Song

Oh Dear, What Can the Matter Be? (By L. May Wheeler)

(Set to a popular parlor tune, this song addresses an argument made against woman's suffrage, that women already had everything they needed – male protection, a sphere of their own – and didn't need to vote as well.)

- 1. Oh, dear, what can the matter be?
Dear, dear, what can the matter be?
Oh, dear, what can the matter be?
Women are wanting to vote.**
- 2. Women have husbands, they are
protected. Women have sons by whom
they're directed. Women have
fathers, they're not neglected. Why
are they wanting to vote?**
- 3. Women have homes, there they
should labor. Women have children
whom they should favor. Women
have time to learn of each neighbor.
Why are they wanting to vote?**
- 4. Women can dress, they love society.
Women have cash with all its variety.
Women can pray with sweetest piety.
Why are they wanting to vote?**
- 5. Women have reared all the sons of the
brave women have shared in the
burdens they gave. Women have
labored with country to save and
that's why we're going to vote!**
- 6. Oh, dear what can the matter be?
Dear, dear, what can the matter be?
Oh, dear, what can the matter be?
Women are wanting to vote!**

Reader Three: Cynthia Bradford

Nannie Helen Burroughs

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Narrator: Maureen Taylor

***CLOSING HYMN** *The Women's Battle Song by Theodora Mills*
(Sung to the Tune of Onward Christian Soldiers)

**Forward sister women! Onward ever more, Bondage is behind you, Freedom is before
Raise the standard boldly, in the morning sun; 'Gainst a great injustice, See the fight
begun! Forward, forward sisters! Onward ever more!
Bondage is behind you. Freedom is before!**

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Forward Sister Women (Suffragette Song)*

Central United Methodist Church

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Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Nina Scott, Ensemble Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Rod Rose, Custodian

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists