



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 4, 2021
Easter 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: This day is like every other day.

ALL: Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed. Coffee was brewed. Weary bodies came to life.

ONE: And yet this day, is like no other day –

ALL: For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle. The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.

ONE: So again and again we say –

ALL: The longest night is over. Death has lost its sting. Jesus is among us. Alleluia! Amen.

ONE: Again and again and again –

ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today adapted from UMH #302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens, and earth
reply! Alleluia!

3. Love's redeeming work is done. Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise,
Alleluia! God has opened paradise,
Alleluia!

2. Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Alleluia! Dying once, Christ lives to
save. Where's your victory, O grave?
Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
Alleluia! Following our exalted Head,
Alleluia! Made like Christ, like Christ
we rise. Alleluia! Ours the cross, the
grave, the skies. Alleluia!

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We know the fear of the upper room.

We know the feeling of hard days and long nights.

We know the grief of the tomb,

And the particular ache of saying goodbye.

We know the pain of Good Friday,

And we know the darkness before dawn,

And still,

And still,

We believe.

We believe that again and again,

The sun will rise.

Again and again, God will draw near.

Again and again,

We will march toward justice.

Again and again,

The tomb will be empty.

Again and again,

Love will win.

Again and again,

God will lead the church.

Again and again,

And again and again,

We will be loved.

The journey will not be perfect.

We will need to rise before dawn.

We will need angels along the way.

But again and again,

The sun will rise.

We believe. Amen.

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

Up from the Grave He Arose

UMH #322

1. Low in the grave he lay; Jesus my Savior.
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
(*Refrain*)

2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my
Savior; vainly they seal the dead, Jesus
my Lord! He tore the bars away, Jesus
my Lord! (*Refrain*)

(*Refrain*) Up from the grave he arose, with a
mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a
victor from the dark domain, and he lives
forever, with his saints to reign. He
arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ
arose!

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my
Savior, he tore the bars away, Jesus my
Lord! (*Refrain*)

WORDS: Robert Lowry, 1874; MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1874; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marcus Dickson

There are a million ways that you speak to us,
God of the garden and God of the empty tomb.
You speak to us in rituals, both formal and organic –
in drops of water on foreheads,
in vows said at the altar,
through pieces of bread dipped in ordinary wine,
And through shared candlelight on Christmas Eve.

You speak to us in nature –
Your artistry showing up in starry nights,
In the smell of pine,
In rushing water and in most every sunrise.

You speak to us through our relationships –
The comfort of a loved one,
The laughter of our friends,
The security of those who support us and cheer us on.

You speak to us in so many ways, and we are grateful for them all.
However today, we just need one. That would be enough.
So lean down and breathe life into these sacred texts.
We are craving to understand, to see ourselves in the story.
We are craving proximity to you.
There are a million ways that you speak to us.
Today, we just need one.
With hearts full of gratitude we pray. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

The Inclusive Bible

When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome brought perfumed oils so that they could anoint Jesus. Very early just after sunrise on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another, “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked, they found that the huge stone had been rolled back.

On entering the tomb, they saw a young person sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. They were very frightened, but the youth assured them: “Do not be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the One who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here. See the place where they laid him. Now go and tell the disciples and Peter, ‘Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him just as he told you.’”

They made their way out and fled from the tomb bewildered and trembling, but they said nothing to anyone, because they were so afraid.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Again and Again: The Sun Rises

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

VIDEO

I've Just Seen Jesus by Sandi Patty and Larnelle Harris

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDcsg3_oAdE

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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Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

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