



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

August 30, 2020
13th After Pentecost



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

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

VIDEO

Standing on the Shoulders

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Nicole Gerring

ONE: For she who went before,

ALL: Blazing, praying, pushing and shoving.

ONE: As we quenched, silenced and diminished,

ALL: God, forgive us.

ONE: For she who stands before us now

ALL: Preaching, proclaiming, reaching and naming,

ONE: As we listen, receive, and embrace,

ALL: God, we thank you.

ONE: for she who will come

ALL: Prophesying, leading, creating and innovating,

ONE: As we long, anticipate, and hope,

**ALL: God, make us ready. May we ever look back and lament, look up with gratitude,
look forward with open hearts.**

*OPENING HYMN

O For a World

(Tune UMH #57)

1. O for a world where everyone respects
each other's ways, where love is lived
and all is done with justice and with
praise.

4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who
mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes
will rise.

2. O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved, where truth is
spoken, children spared, equality
achieved.

5. O for a world preparing for God's
glorious reign of peace, where time and
tears will be no more, and all but love
will cease.

3. We welcome one world family and
struggle with each choice that opens us to
unity and gives our vision voice.

Tune: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing by Carl G. Glaser (1828)
and Lowell Mason (1839); Lyrics by Miriam Therese Winter, 1987
CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Blessing of the Backpacks

A LITANY TO HONOR WOMEN

Jo-Ann Snyder

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

ONE: Grandmothers, mothers and sisters, both named and unnamed, testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of Wisdom and Healing. They are judges, prophets, martyrs, disciples, 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.

ALL: We walk in the company of women of scripture.

ONE: We walk in the company of Eve, who tended creation's original garden and first modeled labor and birth.

We walk in the company of Miriam, who as a young girl rescued a baby from the river and together with him delivered their people from slavery.

We walk in the company of Ruth and Naomi who challenged a society that said a woman's worth is found in her ability to marry and bare male offspring and whose relationship redefined faithfulness and commitment.

We walk in the company of Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Hannah who cried out in anguish over their barren wombs.

We walk in the company of Mary, the young maiden who faced ridicule and scorn after conceiving a son outside of marriage.

We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene, who wept at the empty tomb and was the first to testify to the resurrection of Jesus.

We walk in the company of Phoebe, who led an early church in the empire of Rome with kindness and courage.

ALL: We walk in the company of unnamed women, whose stories have been lost and voices silenced and who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

We walk in the company of Methodist Women who struggled against oppression and injustice;

ONE: Sojourner Truth, Frances Willard, Mary McLeod Bethune, Jessie Daniel Ames, Dorothy Height and Rev. Anna Howard Shaw (who grew up in Michigan and was the first woman ordained as a Methodist minister and became president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1904).

ALL: We walk in the company of women today who are still speaking truth to power and keeping vigil.

ONE: We walk with the mothers banding together to protect the protestors in Portland, Minneapolis, Chicago and cities across the nation.

We weep with those who grieve their murdered children, whose sons and daughters die at the hands of the police.

We cry out with those who are separated from their children, caged at the border, who risk it all in search of a chance to live.

We walk alongside the youth of Detroit who march and sing a new world into being.

We walk in step with the water warriors disrupting pipelines and delivering buckets and bottles to those without access to clean water.

We walk beside our trans sisters who rally for an end to violence in their communities and organize for their safety and rights.

ALL: We walk in the company of all grandmothers, mothers and sisters, who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom and strength, and to heal with compassion and love. We walk in the company of one another, guided by those who traveled before there was a road. (Originally adapted by Rev. Liz Tessa from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, and adopted for this service by the women of COSROW)

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

READING: Address to the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice by Diane Nash
Britney Touchstone

I submit, then, that the nonviolent movement in that city:

1. Is based upon and motivated by love;
2. Attempts to serve God and humankind,
3. Strives toward what we call the beloved community.

This is religion. This is applied religion. I think it has worked for me and I think it has worked for you and I think it is the work of our Church.

One fact occurs to me. This is that the problems of the world lie within men and women; yes, within you, me, and the people with whom we come in contact daily. Further, the problems lie not so much in our action as in our inaction. We have upon ourselves as individuals in a democracy the political, economic, sociological, and spiritual responsibilities of our country. I'm wondering now if we in the United States are really remembering that this must be a government "of the people" and "by the people" as well as "for the people."

Are we really appreciating the fact that if you and I do not meet these responsibilities then our government cannot survive as a democracy?

The purpose of the movement and of the sit-ins and the Freedom Riders and any other such actions, as I see it, is to bring about a climate in which all men and women are respected as men and women, in which there is appreciation of the dignity of humanity and in which each individual is free to grow and produce to their fullest capacity. We of the movement often refer to this goal as the concept of the redeemed or the “beloved” community.

***CENTERING HYMN**

Women’s Rights

(Tune UMH #717)

1. It’s the right of every woman to mark out her path in life, and to be a saint or soldier or a true and loving wife; to fill the soul with gladness, and recall the world from strife, As she goes marching on. (*Chorus*)

2. It’s her right to serve the nation in its every hour of need, her right to sit in judgment on her country’s faith and creed. And show the world her courage by some high, heroic deed, as she goes marching on. (*Chorus*)

(*Chorus*) Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
As she goes marching on.

3. It’s her right to train the children in the home and in the school, to help in framing statutes and determine who shall rule, and like man, to cast her ballot for a statesman or a fool, as she goes marching on. (*Chorus*)

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

WOMEN’S EQUALITY

Past – Deaconess Anne Hillman

Present – Mahja Marquez

Future – Marlyne Kilbey

VIDEO

Bad Romance “Suffrage”

Lady Gaga

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

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Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Nina Scott, Ensemble Director and Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist