



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810 Incorporated 1822 Sanctuary completed 1867

Bulletin for January 5, 2020

## Epiphany 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

Hymnal Guide: UMH - "The United Methodist Hymnal"; TFWS - "The Faith We Sing";

SOZ - "Songs of Zion". The prelude is a time for prayer and meditation.

Please turn off all pagers and cell phones. Thank you.

### PRELUDE

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* by Detrich Buxtehude

### INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(written by Thom M. Shuman 2014)

ONE: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

**ALL: We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.**

ONE: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

**ALL: The darkness that surrounds us is gone!**

ONE: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

**ALL: Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others. Amen.**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Three Kings*

UMH #254

**1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing  
gifts we traverse afar, field and  
fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again, King  
forever, ceasing never, over us all to  
reign. (Refrain)**

**3. Frankincense to offer have I, incense  
owns a Diety nigh; prayer and  
praising, voices raising, worshipping  
God on high. (Refrain)**

**4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
(Refrain)**

**5. Glorious now behold him arise; King  
and God and sacrifice: Alleluia,  
Alleluia, sounds through the earth and  
skies. (Refrain)**

WORDS: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857; MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857; CCLI 2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### **EPIPHANY PRAYER**

ONE: It's always been about the light with you, haven't it, Jesus?

**ALL: Magi, braving distance and desert to find you, and bewildered shepherds,  
compelled by an angel's invitation, allowed light to be their guide.**

ONE: And it is still the light that calls us to you; the light of beauty that whispers its truth in  
surprising ways and places;

**ALL: The light of compassion that kneels, and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet;**

ONE: The light of joy that glows even in the darkness of grief and suffering;

**ALL: The light that seeks to shine within us, and through us into the dark corners of our  
world.**

ONE: It's always been about the light with you, Jesus;

**ALL: And it's always about the light for us.**

ONE: Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness

**ALL: And into your marvelous light.**

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY

*Three Kings* by Peter Cornelius

**\*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

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

# ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## \*CENTERING HYMN

*Star Child*

TFWS #2095

1. Star Child, earth Child, go-between of God. Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod. *(Refrain)*

3. Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears. *(Refrain)*

*(Refrain)* This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

4. Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store. *(Refrain)*

2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know. *(Refrain)*

5. Hope for peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, © 1994 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

## \*GOSPEL LESSON (Please stand in body or in Spirit) Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east and we've come to honor him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,*

*by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,*

*because from you will come one who governs,*

*who will shepherd by people Israel."*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO**

Bobbi Thompson

**MESSAGE**

*Star Stuff*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

ONE: Here, at this table, under the welcoming light of a morning star, the God of epiphanies waits to be encountered. So, though you may be weary and worn by your journey or stained and sore with travel – look up and see the star, lay aside your packs bend beneath the door frame, and enter with joy, for God waits within – to refresh and renew, to comfort and restore, to challenge and transform, to know and be known.

So now, gathered round this table, we recall and recount how the Epiphany God was made known in the actions and words of Jesus as he shared a last supper with his friends. We remember how the humble service of washing feet revealed the shape of God’s Kingdom; how the blessing, breaking and sharing of bread revealed the pattern of God’s life; how the blessing, pouring and sharing of wine revealed the depth of God’s love, and recalling and treasuring these things, we join our voices with those of all creation in recognition and celebration of the grace and goodness of God present and at work in the world:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**ONE:** Epiphany God, send down your Holy Spirit now on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine – that we might recognize and know you present with us here, and in receiving the gifts of your love, find ourselves renewed.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May the peace of the Epiphany God, the joyful peace of finding, the enlightening peace of seeing, the challenging peace of understanding, the radical peace of following a different route, energize and encourage you, as you travel onward. **Amen**

### **\*RECESSIONAL HYMN**

*The First Noel*

UMH #245

**1. The first Noel the angel did say was to  
certain poor shepherds in fields as they  
lay, in fields where they lay keeping  
their sheep, on a cold winter's night  
that was so deep. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is  
the King of Israel.**

**2. They looked up and saw a star shining  
in the east, beyond them far; and to  
the earth it gave great light, and so it  
continued both day and night.  
(Refrain)**

**3. And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country  
far; to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it  
went. (Refrain)**

**4. This star drew nigh to the northwest  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and  
there it did both stop and stay, right  
over the place where Jesus lay.  
(Refrain)**

**5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon the knee, and  
offered there in his presence, their gold  
and myrrh and frankincense. (Refrain)**

# BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Grand Chouer* by Cesar Franck

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, PhD, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Nina Scott, Ensemble Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists