



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 24, 2021

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 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

Bobbi Thompson

## INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Central United Methodist Church acknowledges that the building in which we carry out our collective life together occupies and is built upon land that is part of what was first known as Waawiyaataanong ("At the curved shores."), the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy, but which is now referred to as Detroit. In 1807 the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations granted use of these sovereign lands to the US government through the Treaty of Detroit. Central United Methodist Church affirms the continued Indigenous sovereignty over these lands and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. We commit ourselves to working together with our native brothers and sisters to advance equity in all dimensions of life and to promote a better future for the earth and all its peoples.

(Adopted by the Ministry Team -April 22, 2021)

## ACTS OF PRAISE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In our grief, God never tells us to get over it. She brings us to her bosom and sways us back and forth.

**ALL: God's heart beats with ours!**

ONE: God doesn't explain away our sorrow, making our pain into a lesson or a cross to bear.

**ALL: God weeps with us!**

ONE: Hallelujah, God doesn't offer easy answers –

**ALL: They are with us in the Mystery. She holds us in Her arms.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (Adapted from UMH #110)

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe. With craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.**
- 2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, but there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing. You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free! With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.**
- 3. And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us. The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them; their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure; one little word shall fell them.**
- 4. That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding; the Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still; God's reign endures forever.**

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## **ACTS OF SHARING**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**ONE:** Quaker and educator, Dr. Parker Palmer, says "The human soul doesn't want to be advised or fixed or saved. It simply wants to be witnessed."

**ALL:** Holy Spirit, thank you for bearing witness to our souls. Quiet within us the urge to advise, fix or save another. May we be like you and yield the inner wisdom found within all beings. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

In a world of wealth, hoarding, we, the kin-dom of God, desire to live in everyday abundance – to take what we have and share it, so that all may have enough. We desire not barns overflowing, but for everyone to have nourishing food, deep rest, safety, connection and care. Let us bring our offerings to God and each other, that it might be so.

### **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**

**God of the Oppressed, infuse ecosystems of care with your creative love and heal the soul-sickness of wealth hoarding. We dedicate our offerings to the interdependence of all beings, knowing that our flourishing is tied up in one another. Bless and keep your beloveds as we work with you to bring about your kin-dom of mutual care. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **\*HYMN**

*Cares Chorus*

TFWS #2215

**I cast all my cares upon you, I lay all of my burdens down at your feet,  
And anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you.**

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## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

### **HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Job 42:1-6, 10-17*

The Inclusive Bible

Then Job answered God: I know that you can do all things: you have only to think something and it is done. “Who is this obscuring my plans with such ignorant words?” you asked. That was me. I’ve been spouting off about things I can’t understand, about wonders beyond my experience and my knowledge.

“Listen now, and I will speak; I will ask the questions and *you* will answer *me!*” you said. Formerly I knew you only by word of mouth, but now I see you with my own eyes. And so I now take back all that I said, and repent in dust and ashes.”

After Job had prayed for his friends, God restored Job’s prosperity, blessing him with twice as much as he had before. Then all his sisters and brothers and everyone who had known him before visited Job and sat down and dined with him. They sympathized with him and comforted Job for all the evil God had heaped upon him. Each of them gave Job a piece of silver and a good ring.

God blessed Job’s latter days even more than his former life; he came to own 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 donkeys.

He also went on to have three daughters and seven sons. He named the daughters Jemimah, Keziah and Kerenhappuch. In all the land there were no women as esteemed as the daughters of Job. And Job gave his daughters and sons equal shares of his inheritance.

After this Job lived on to the age of 140 years and he saw his children and his children’s up to the fourth generation. And when Job died, he was old and full of days.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

## MESSAGE

*A Little Wind to Move Death*

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

## CLOSING HYMN

*When We are Called to Sing your Praise*

TFWS #2216

1. When we are called to sing your praise with hearts so filled with pain that we would rather sit and weep or stand up and complain, remind us, God, you understand the burdens that we bear; you, too, have walked the shadowed way and known our deep despair.
2. When we are called to sing your praise and cannot find our voice, because our losses leave us now no reason to rejoice, remind us, God, that you accept our sad laments in prayer; you, too, have walked the shadowed way and known our deep despair.

3. When we are called to sing your praise and life ahead looks grim, still give us faith and hope enough to break forth in a hymn, a thankful hymn, great God of Love, that you are everywhere; you walk the shadowed way with us and keep us in your care.

WORDS: Mary Nelson Keithahn; MUSIC: Trad. English melody; Words  
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## BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Go forth not with easy answers for suffering,  
nor trite explanations for pain, but in consolation –  
that here on this Earth, we have each other.  
Though our heartbreak may be unique,  
we are not alone in heartbrokenness.  
Though we cannot fix the sorrow of another,  
we can share what we have as we are able –  
our presence, our resources and our determined compassion.  
Go with God who goes with us. Amen.

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