



# Central United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

February 16, 2025

## Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

### Black History Month

#### 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,  
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

#### PRELUDE

Brandon Reeves & Augustus Williamson

*The Prelude and the Postlude are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.*

#### ACTS OF PRAISE

\***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Marilyn E. Thornton, Deaconess Anne Hillman  
"All Saints Day," *The Africana Worship Book Year C*).

Let us give honor to those who hallowed this earth by their prayers and by the way they walked in the light of God. Let us remember the giants of faith on whose shoulders we stand:

**Abraham, Jacob, Ruth, Esther, Mary, Jesus, Paul, Lydia**

Let us give honor to those whose hallowed the struggle for Justice by the Love that they have shown to create the beloved community. Let us remember these blessed ones whose example we should follow.

## **Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Fannie Lou Hamer**

Let us give honor to those who build our families, who sacrificed for our well-being, who built up our church, who found institutions of learning, who braved the storm, who fought the good fight and who may still be fighting on. We stand on their shoulders!

*The worshipping community is invited to call out the names of 'saints,' "ancestors,' and 'elders' they wish to honor from their families and communities.*

**Loving God, we thank you for the Saints, Ancestors, and Elders!**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

*For All the Saints, V 1, 2 & 4*

UMH #711

**1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. *(Refrain)***

***(Refrain)* Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;  
Thou, God, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. *(Refrain)***

**4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. *(Refrain)***

WORDS: William W. How, 1864; MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; CCLI 2815228

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

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



**Please help us know you were here in worship today by scanning the QR code above with your phone. There is also a place for notes and prayer requests for the pastor.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

Brandon Reeves and Augustus Williamson

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Inez Torbert

(from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

*“Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.”*

What material surplus is ours to release? What spiritual consolation is ours to be gained by living in solidarity with those made poor by systems of greed? Come, the gospel is clear—the material well-being of our neighbors is our concern. Let us bring what we have together.

## OFFERTORY

*Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*

Traditional Spiritual arr. by Gene Grier and Lowell Everson

**\*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.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Inez Torbert

(from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

God of Justice—many of us are struggling under the weight of cruel systems. We struggle to get housing, we struggle to get healthcare, we struggle to find safety, we struggle to afford food, we struggle because we are overworked, we struggle because we feel isolated. Woe to the greedy! Woe to the oppressors! Come, Holy Spirit, bless our solidarity, bless our love for one another, bless our offerings towards well-being for all. Amen.

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### ANTHEM

*Lead Me Lord*

words and music by John Becker, arr. by Mark Hayes

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Luke 6:17-26*

Roland Amarteifio

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon—people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said: "You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours.

You who hunger now are blessed, for you'll be filled. You who weep now are blessed, for you'll laugh."

You are blessed when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One.

On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full.

Woe to you who are full, for you'll go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you'll weep in your grief.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

*Central Speaks!*

A panel of Black Centralites share their stories. Moderated by Karen Tyler Ruiz

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Blest Are They*

TFWS #2155

**1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kin-dom of God.**

**Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled. *(Refrain)***

*(Refrain)* **Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.**

**Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kin-dom of God!**

**2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.**

**Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *(Refrain)***

**3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.**

**Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God! *(Refrain)***

**4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.**

**Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. *(Refrain)***

**5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.**

**Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kin-dom. Shine for all to see. *(Refrain)***

WORDS: David Haas; MUSIC: David Haas; © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION

### BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Karen Tyler-Ruiz

(adapted from Cynthia Bond Hopson, "Black History Month Service,"

*The Africana Worship Book for Year C*)

Today is all we have. We will rejoice, we will be renewed, and we will learn from the past, cherish today and welcome the future because you have given us a powerful and sacred history. We will teach and learn, speak and listen and grow strong every day of every month. Amen.

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

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Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus  
Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries  
Margaret Reese, Director of Music  
Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist  
Debra Cox, Office Administrator  
Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager  
Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425

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### 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 Waawiyataanong (“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)