



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

December 29, 2024

First Sunday After Christmas

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

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** (from *A Sanctified Art*)

ONE: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

ALL: God is in our joy.

ONE: God is in this room.

ALL: We have reason to celebrate.

ONE: We have a reason to sing.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

**1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth: (Refrain)**

(Refrain) **Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: (Refrain)**

**3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: (Refrain)**

**4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: (Refrain)**

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816; MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867, CCLI 2815228

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rebecca Thomas

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Piano Music by Brandon Reeves



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code.

***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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

A Cradle Carol by Dan Forrest

Laura Burger

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus used to go every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when Jesus was twelve, they went up for the celebration as was their custom. As they were returning at the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, unbeknownst to Mary and Joseph. Thinking Jesus was in their caravan, they continued their journey for the day, looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances.

Not finding Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him. On the third day, they came upon Jesus in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were astonished, and Mary said, "Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been so worried, looking for you. Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I had to be in my Abba's house?"

But they didn't understand what he told them. Then Jesus went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. Mary stored these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom, in years and in favor with God and people alike

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Christmas Afterglow

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World, v. 1, 2 & 4

UMH #246

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (*A Sanctified Art*)

Family of faith, in a hurting and lonely world,
in a battered and bruised society, there is good news:

Jesus Christ is born!

So as you leave this place, may you be quick to laugh and quick to hope.

May you look for reasons to be grateful.

May you not hesitate to join in the dance or join in the song.

May you extend a hand to your neighbor and find God in every moment of joy.

For unto you a child is born.

That is good news!

So go in peace trusting in that promise.

Go in peace and go with joy.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams,
Detroit, Michigan 48226 / 313.965.5422

cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org / www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

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

Yvette Meadow & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425

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)