



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday After Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 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

Keith Livermore

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 “Praying a Movement: Worship Resources” by Sharon R. Fennema, United Church of Christ)

ONE: “Every step towards the goal of justice requires...struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”¹

ALL: With the rolling waters of mighty streams, we gather to join the movement of God’s justice.

ONE: “It is true that as we struggle for freedom in America we will have to boycott at times. But we must remember...that a boycott is not an end within itself ...the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of [people].”²

ALL: With the shining light of a tender flame, we bring our hearts, to join the movement of the Spirit’s love.

ONE: Ringing with prayer and praise, bringing our unique gifts and passions, we become the Body of Christ, moving with faith and action in the world.

ALL: Joining this great movement of hope, let us worship God.

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Stride toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, 1958.

2. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Facing the Challenge of a New Age,” 1956.

***OPENING HYMN:**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH #519

- 1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

**Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

- 2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?**

**We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

- 3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.**

**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921; © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co.' renewed; 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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

"Agape is ... understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill toward all [humanity]. It is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return."¹ In the spirit of that generous love, let us share our gifts with each other and the world.

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Loving Your Enemies," November 17, 1957.

OFFERTORY

Dream a Dream words and music by Ed Robertson
Central Choir, & Elin Chambers, Accompanist



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

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."¹ Bless the sharing of these gifts. May it be a sign of our mutual care, common life, and shared destiny. Amen.

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

Excerpt from: *I've Been to the Mountaintop*
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 3, 1968, Memphis, Tennessee

ANTHEM

Make them Hear You, from *Ragtime*.
music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens.
Augustus Williamson, Soloist & Elin Chambers, Accompanist

***SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength, who from of old has helped us in our distress.

Therefore we fear nothing— even if the earth should open up in front of us and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea, even if the earth's waters rage and foam and the mountains tumbles with its heaving.

There's a river whose streams gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst, it will never fall—

God will help it at daybreak.

Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble, God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.

God Sabaoth is with us— our stronghold is the God of Israel!

Come, see what God has done— God makes the earth bounteous!

God has put an end to war, from one end of the earth to the other, breaking bows, splintering spears, and setting chariots on fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God!

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted upon the earth."

God Sabaoth is with us— our stronghold is the God of Israel!

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

GUEST SPEAKER

Detroit City Council President, Mary Sheffield

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Shall Overcome

UMH #533

- 1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday!**

Oh, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

- 2. We'll walk hand in hand.**

- 3. We shall all be free.**

- 4. We shall live in peace.**

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American, adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1986;
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH, (by Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies, Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*)

Now Listen to the sounds that stir within, listen to the cries for help that ring around you, and follow a path of healing and liberations for you and all you encounter. Take peace in the sound of your own voice as you choose the life that honors your truest self. *May it be so.*

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Keith Livermore

Thanks to Elin Chamber for serving as our collaborative pianist while Brandon Reeves in on vacation.

Thanks to Indigo Kerr for designing our new "MLK," "Rosa Parks," and "Protesting Saints" banners.

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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

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)