



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

May 5, 2024

## Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

#### PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson and Brandon Reeves

The prelude and introit are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

#### ACTS OF PRAISE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: The Love of God is groundwater, oxygen—

**ALL: Around us, within us, beyond us.**

ONE: The Love of God is disruptive, subversive—

**ALL: tangled with the heartbreak of the world.**

ONE: The Love of God

**ALL: is spacious, expansive—**

ONE: wilder than the categories we've constructed to try and tame creation.

**ALL: Come, the Love of God wells up—**

ONE: ever-present, liberating,

**ALL: washing away our narrow imaginations.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*And Are We Yet Alive?* v. 1, 3, & 6

UMH #553

1. And are we yet alive, and see each other's face? Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!
3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!

6. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain, and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1749; MUSIC: Johann G. Nageli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845; 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

### PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*For Simple Things* American folk hymn, Arr. by Douglas Wagner

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**

Take our gifts and bless them with your courageous Love, oh Holy Spirit, that our communities may dance with radical transformation. Possibility: sweep into our lives, shake us up, and set us free! Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **ANTHEM**

Agnus Dei with *How Great Thou Art* Choral setting by Joel Rainy

## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

### **\*SCRIPTURE**

*John 15: 9-17*

Mollika Biernat

As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love.  
And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments.  
I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete.  
This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.  
There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
And you are my friends, if you do what I command you.  
I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business.  
Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God.  
It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name God will give you.  
This command I give you that you love one another.  
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **MESSAGE**

*What Just Happened at General Conference*

Rev. Paul Perez

## **A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: The Holy One be with you

**ALL: And also with you**

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the One who guides our life together.

**ALL: It is our joy to offer gratitude and praise.**

ONE: God, you never promised us that way would be clear. You have, however, created us in your image – the image of One who is Wisdom, who is Love, who is Courage. You breathed your life into us with the assurance that we have, within and around us, everything we need to be your faithful people. Though we sometimes act in disregard for your call on our collective life, still you show up with and for us, relentlessly. And so, we join with all the saints who have gone before in gratitude for your abiding presence:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and presence  
all that is, is full of your glory.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Love**

ONE: Sacred is your presence and blessed is Christ with us. Through the life of Jesus, we saw an example of what it means to navigate an uncertain path, practice creative ministry, and face with courage and compassion all the barriers that work against your Spirit on the move.

Jesus lived and breathed a ministry rooted in your Love for all people. He prioritized the lives of those who are suffering and showed us what it looks like to be with and for one another, even under great distress. Though evil attempted to silence his proclamation of an all-inclusive Kin-dom of God, not even death could keep Love from growing.

On the night on which he was arrested, he gathered among friends for a meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and shared it with his disciples saying,

**ALL: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

ONE: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**ALL: “Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

ONE: And so, in remembrance of Christ with us, and in the assurance of your Love persistent, we offer our lives, our ministries, and our church in the service of your healing work as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

ONE: Pour out your Spirit on this community and these gifts. Make them a taste of your Kin-dom through Christ with us, that we might leave the Table both nourished by your Love and still hungry for justice for all your people. In collective longing for a taste of your Kin-dom on earth, we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

**ALL: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen**

## **SHARING BREAD & CUP**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God, your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey with Christ towards justice. Amen.

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*We Are Called*

TFWS # 2172

**1. Come! Live in the light!—Shine with the joy and the love of our God! We are called —to be light for the kin-dom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!—(Refrain)**

**2. Come! Open your heart!—Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called—to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more!— (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **We are called to act with justice, — we are called to love tenderly,—we are called to serve one another, — to walk humbly with God!—**

**3. Sing! Sing a new song!—Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, — and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!— (Refrain)**

WORDS: David Haas; MUSIC: David Haas; © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 28815228

## **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH**

### **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH**

What is Holy Love inviting you towards today?  
Courage, softness' action, rest?  
May you seek it wholeheartedly, beloved.  
Because our liberation is bound,  
We must move in many ways.  
Go boldly with the God of Possibility.

## 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, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, Receptionist

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)