



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

December 22, 2024

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Words for the Beginning: *Hope Is Worth the Risk*

*Magnify*



## 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** (from *A Sanctified Art*)

ONE: In this weary world,

**ALL: we sing of joy.**

ONE: In this fragile world,

**ALL: we lift each other up.**

ONE: In this beautiful world,

**ALL: we look for God.**

ONE: In this tender world,

**ALL: we hold onto hope.**

ONE: This is the invitation of faith.

So, in this time of worship,

may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

**ALL: With hope in our hearts,**

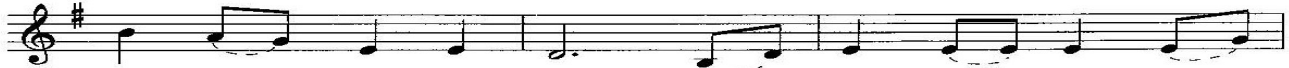
**Amen!**

# Canticle of the Turning

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

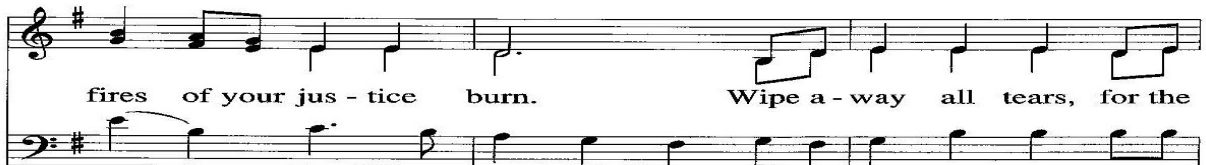


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

# 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

Augustus Williamson

### ANTHEM

*Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. by Kyle Peterson

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Mahja Zeon & Wil, Nyla, and Bolivar Marquez

ONE: In a weary and worn world,  
how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?

**ALL: Let us begin with tenderness.  
Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve.  
Let us begin from a place of vulnerability  
and hope.  
Let us begin with love.**

ONE: Yes, let us start with love.  
Today we light the candles of hope, peace,  
joy, and love.

**ALL: May the warmth of these lights be  
our cornerstone.  
May the truth in these lights help us  
begin again.**

ONE: May it be so!  
**Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE:**            *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, v. 6

UMH #211

**6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

WORDS: 9<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7ab, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986;  
MUSIC: 15<sup>th</sup> cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854; ; Sts. 1,3,5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans/  
sts/ 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd; © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict; CCLI 2815228

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*In Dulci Jubilo* arr. by Mark Burrows

Janae Swanson, Trumpet

In sweet jubilation in a manger;  
In his mother's lap,  
You are the Alpha and Omega!  
O tiny Jesus, O Prince of Glory.  
Draw me to you. O love of the Father!  
O gentleness! By our crimes  
The joys of heave, What kind of glory!  
Where are the joys, New songs; In the King's court.



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**

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Luke 1:46-55*

Mary said:

“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.

For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name.

Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.

You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.

You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy—

The promise you made to our ancestors—

to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

*Prepare the Way O Zion* music by Larry Shackley

words by Frans Franzen      Janae Swanson, Trumpet

### REFLECTION

*Words for the Beginning: Hope is Worth the Risk*      Rev. Paul Perez

\*CLOSING HYMN

Hope is Worth the Risk

# HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK

NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.11.10

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Traditional French melody; arr. Anna Strickland

Col - lege stu - dents ga - ther pro - test - ing for peace  
 Young girls in I - ran to pro - test the re - gime  
 In Tai - wan the drea - mers flood the streets with blooms  
 Li - ber - i - an wo - men scarred by ci - vil war  
 Eth - nic mu - sic rings out from the Bal - tic Sea  
 Age to age and coast to coast peo - ple have stood

Stand - ing firm in spite of vio - lence from po - lice  
 Take off their hi - jabs to let - their hair be seen  
 Sun - flo - wers and li - lies li - ber - ty's per - fume  
 Keep the peace talks go - ing by barr - ing the doors  
 As the peo - ple sing their right to li - ber - ty  
 Risk - ing some - thing big in hope of some - thing good

8

Em-pires will fight with force or po-li - tics Still the Spi-rit whis-pers, "Hope is worth the risk"

©Anna Strickland, 2024. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

 © A SANCTIFIED ART | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

CCLI 2815228

# BENEDICTION

## **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH** (*A Sanctified Art*)

Lies of cynicism are loud, and so are the voices of others—but, beloved, hope is worth fighting for. May the Spirit of God surround you this season so that you might trust like Joseph and sing like Mary. The same hope they held is still alive today, transforming creation into God's will for justice and peace. As you prepare your heart for Christ's arrival, may you make room for God's presence, and may your actions reflect God's hope for humanity.

## **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi*

---

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

[cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org](mailto:cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org) / [www.centralumchurchdetroit.org](http://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)