



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

January 26, 2025

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Songs of Resistance



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

ONE: In you, Steadfast Liberator, we put our trust. Teach us your ancient path of love;

ALL: show us your compassionate and courageous ways.

ONE: Reinvigorate within us the rebellious ways of our youth—

ALL: that we may not get stuck in ruts of dusty thinking;

ONE: that we may not abide unjust rules;

ALL: that we may imagine more expansive futures.

ONE: Ever-present Rhythm of Love—lead us not to resignation.

ALL: When the night is long, sing to us songs of hope. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN:

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH #577

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, as sail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kin-dom's goal,
lest we miss thy kin-dom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Keep Marching (from the musical "Suffs") by Shaina Taub
Clara Zundel, Solo

***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

ANTHEM

Nina Cried Power by Hozier Megan Mueller, Solo
It's not the wakin', it's the risin'
It is the groundin' of a foot uncompromisin'
It's not forgoin' of the lie
It's not the openin' of eyes
It's not the wakin', it's the risin'

It's not the shade we should be casting
It's the light and it's the obstacle that casts it
It's the heat that drives the light
It's the fire it ignites
It's not the wakin', it's the risin'

It's not the song, it is the singin'
It's the heaven of the human spirit ringin'
It is the bringin' of the line
It is the bearin' of the lie
It's not the wakin', it's the risin'

And I could cry power (power)
Power (power)
Power (power)
Nina cried power
Billie cried power
Linus cried power
And I could cry power
Power (power)
Power (power)
Power
Curtis cried power
Kenny cried power
Nina cried power

It's not the war but what's behind it
Oh, the fear of how men is near assignment
And everythin' that we're denied by keepin' the divide
It's not the wakin', it's the risin'

And I could cry power (power)
Power (power)
Power (power)
Nina cried power
Lenny cried power
James Brown cried power

And I could cry power
Power (power)
Power (power)
Power
Billie cried power
Junie cried power
Nina cried power
And I could cry power

Power has been cried by those stronger than me
Straight into the face that tells you to grab on your chains
If you love bein' free

Ah, lord I could cry power
Power (power)
'Cause power is my love and my righteous to me
James Brown cried power
Sieger cried power
Minnie cried power
Woman cried power
Yeah ah, power
James cried power

Millie cried power
Kenny cried power
Billie, power
Jillian, power
Woody, power
Nina cried power

***SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 25

To you, God, I lift up my soul.
My God, I trust in you; don't let me be ashamed, don't let my enemies triumph over me.
No—none who hope in you will be ashamed, but shame will come to the wantonly treacherous.
Show me your ways, God! Teach me your paths!
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I wait all the day long for you.
Remember your mercies, God, your love—your ancient and unwavering love!
Pardon the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; remember me because of your love, because of your goodness, God!
And how good and upright you are, God! You instruct sinners in the path, you guide the humble in what is right, and teach them your way.
All of your paths, God, are full of love and faithfulness for those who keep your Covenant and Testimonies.
For the sake of your Name, God, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Who are those who revere you? They are the ones you teach which way you want them to go.
Their lives will be spent in prosperity and their children will possess the land.
God becomes friends with those who show reverence, and reveals the Covenant to them.
My eyes are always on you, God, for you will pluck my feet out of the snare.
Turn to me, be gracious to me, for I am lonely and anguished.
How heavy are the troubles of my heart! Free me from my distress!
Look at my affliction and my trouble, and mend all my brokenness.
See how my enemies keep multiplying, how thy hate me so violently!
O guard of my life, rescue me! Don't let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
May integrity and uprightness protect me, for you are my only hope.
Ransom Israel, O God, from all trouble!
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Songs of Resistance

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

TFWS #2153

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. by Wendell Whalum; Arr. © Estate of Wendell Whalum; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

Beyond stories of isolation,
we will live stories of interdependence.

Beyond stories of despair,
we will live stories of day-to-day care.

When hope seems dim,
we will be guided by stars.

Go with God,
the birther of the Cosmos,
that ancient well of Love.

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

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 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)