



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Words for the Beginning: *We Can't Go Alone*

Binding Braids



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: In a world that is lonely,

ALL: we will save a seat for you.

ONE: In a world that is anxious,

ALL: we will light candles against the gloom.

ONE: In a world that is weary,

ALL: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

ONE: I am not alone. We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

ALL: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH #196

**1. Come, though long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious king-dom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744; MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906; 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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Linsey Higgins, Coralee Mack, Elsie Mack

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

**ALL: Let us begin together. Let
us begin arm in arm.
Let us begin by holding each other up,
instead of tearing each other down.
Let us begin with words of peace.**

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

**ALL: May these lights remind us of what
could be.
May these lights mark a new beginning.
May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.**

ONE: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.
May we begin again.

AMEN.

CHORAL RESPONSE: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, v. 2 UMH #211

**2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. Refrain**

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

WORDS: 9th 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: 15th 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

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee by Jean Berger



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 *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* arr. by Andre Thomas

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** *Ruth 1:1 – 6; 11, 14-17*

Long ago, when judges governed Israel, A famine swept over the land. So a family from the town of Bethlehem in Judah, a woman and man and their two children, emigrated to the region of Moab. The man was named Elimelech, the woman's name was Naomi, and their two sons were named Mahlon and Chilon. They were Ephrathites, that is, from Bethlehem of Judah. They arrived in the land of Moab and settled there.

Soon afterward Elimelech died, leaving Naomi and the two sons to fend for themselves. The two sons eventually married two Moabite women, whose names were Orpah and Ruth. They lived in the land of Moab for about ten years when both Mahlon and Chilon died.

Naomi lost both of her children as well as her husband, she prepared to take her daughters-in-law and leave the land of Moab and return to her homeland, for she had heard that God had visited the people by providing an abundance of good.

But Naomi said to them. "Go back, my daughters. Why do you want to come with me? I have no more sons inside me that you can take as spouses.

Then Orpah kissed Naomi and returned to her people. But Ruth stayed by her side.

Naomi said to Ruth, "Look, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and to the god of her ancestors. You too must go. Follow your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said to her, "Please don't ask me to leave you and turn away from your company. I swear to you:

Where you go, I will go;

where you lodge, I will lodge.

Your people will be my people,

And your God, my God.

Where you die, I'll die there too

And I will be buried there beside you.

I swear—may God be my witness and judge—

That not even death will keep us apart."

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Words for the Beginning: We Can't Go Alone

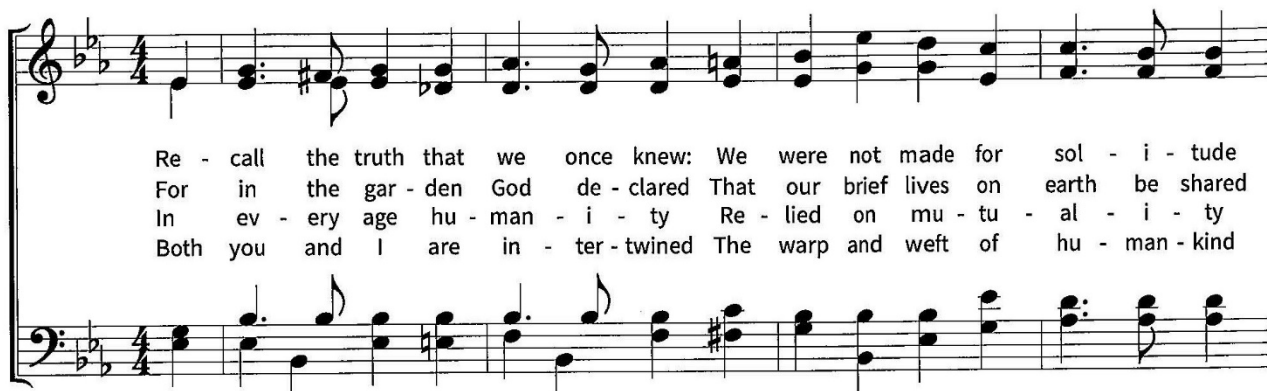
Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

To Be Known

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by John Baptiste Calkin, 1872



Re - call the truth that we once knew: We were not made for sol - i - tude
For in the gar - den God de - clared That our brief lives on earth be shared
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty
Both you and I are in - ter - twined The warp and weft of hu - man - kind



We need comm - u - ni - ties of faith Where we can feel God's warm em - brace
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly Who hold us in our joy and grief
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed To be di - vi - ded and con - fined
So please don't try to go a - lone Your hu - man heart needs to be known

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BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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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 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)