

THE BOOK OF
HEBREWS
Christ Above All

*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, October 6, 2024

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

**Connecting all people to God by building bridges
of caring, outreach, and acceptance.**

Central and Algonquin UMC's Worship Gathering
Pastor Marty Johnston
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October 6, 2024
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Greeters/Ushers: Norb Bennin/Rong Morgan/James Arfstrom

Liturgist: Gwen Worley

Communion: Colleen Arbic/Mary Beth Aikens

PRELUDE

"How Can I But Love Him?"

Ashford

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting all people to God by building bridges of
caring, outreach, and acceptance

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

Leader: Vindicate me, Lord, for I have led a blameless life; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

People: **Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.**

Leader: For I have always been mindful of Your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on Your faithfulness.

People: **I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites.**

Leader: I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.

People: **I wash my hands in innocence and go about Your altar, Lord.**

Leader: Proclaiming aloud Your praise and telling of all Your wonderful deeds.

People: **Lord, I love the house where You live, the place where Your glory dwells.**

Leader: Do not take away my soul along with sinners, my life with those who are bloodthirsty.

People: **In whose hands are wicked schemes, whose right hands are full of bribes.**

Leader: I lead a blameless life; deliver me and be merciful to me.

People: **My feet stand on level ground; in the great congregation, I will praise the Lord.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"My Hope Is Built"

UMH 368
THE SOLID ROCK

PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER *

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Today marks the beginning of our reading from the book of Hebrews. This book was written to encourage early Christians to stay strong in their faith. It focuses on how Jesus is greater than all things, including angels and past prophets. Our reading from Chapter 1 explains that, in the past, God spoke through prophets, but now He speaks through His Son, Jesus, who is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Chapter 2's reading tells us that Jesus, though made lower than the angels for a time, is now crowned with glory and honor. He suffered to bring salvation to everyone, making us part of God's family.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

God's Final Word: His Son

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Jesus Made Fully Human

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him?"

⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor

⁸ and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.

⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

¹² He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

CHORUS

“Open Our Eyes”

TFWS 2086
OPEN OUR EYES

SERMON

Jesus Above All

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Pastor: On this World Communion Sunday, we gather with Christians across the globe at the table of our Lord. Though we are many and diverse, we come as one body, united in Christ’s love. Jesus invites all who are weary, all who hunger, and all who thirst to come and be filled.

People: **We come as children of God, seeking to share in His grace with the whole world.**

Pastor: Come, not because you are perfect, but because you are loved. Come, because Christ welcomes you, just as you are.

People: **We come with open hearts, ready to receive God’s love.**

Confession and Pardon

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another, so that we may approach this table with hearts made new.

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: God is rich in mercy and abounding in steadfast love. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God! In Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. On this World Communion Sunday, we join with Your people in every nation and language, lifting our hearts as one to give You praise. From the rising of the sun to its setting, Your people proclaim Your greatness.

And so, with all Christians around the world, and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and

said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Mystery of Faith

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

People: Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

Pastor: Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Pastor: Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Sharing the Elements

(The elements are distributed to the congregation.)

Prayer After Communion

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: Eternal God, we give You thanks for this holy mystery in which You have given Yourself to us. We are grateful for the unity we find in Christ, as we share this meal with brothers and sisters around the world. Empower us to be Your hands and feet, bringing peace, love, and justice to the world. May we go forth from this table strengthened by Your Spirit, to serve You and one another with glad hearts. In Jesus 'name, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

In response to God's boundless love and mercy, we are invited to give generously, supporting the work of Christ in our church and beyond. May our offerings reflect our gratitude and commitment to share God's blessings with the world.

OFFERTORY

"Brother James' Air"

arr. various

DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for Your grace. Use them to further Your work and bless those in need. May our giving reflect our trust in You and our commitment to share Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

UMH 189
ST. ELIZABETH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom 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 trespass against us; and lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the

power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – October 6, 2024

"THANK YOU" to all who helped with assembling the October Flame.

Ladies, YOU ROCK!! Your help was greatly appreciated.

On the first Sunday of each month, starting this Sunday, our young Christians will be collecting for our mission project at the end of the service.

We invite past members and those who worship online to **come to worship with us in person** for “**Homecoming**”, on **October 13**. We Miss You! This is also a chance to **wear your favorite team jersey to Sunday service** and swap stories of remembered games and victories as we **celebrate with cider and donuts in the social hall after worship**.

Family Night on Wednesday, October 16th, 5:30 PM – 7 PM. Dinner is served before the lesson.

On **October 20th**, following the church service, **Rebecca Circle** will hold their **Annual Pie Sale**. The members will be preparing many varieties of delicious pies, and they encourage you to come downstairs and purchase a pie. As always, the proceeds will be used to provide gifts and groceries for families at Christmas and Easter. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

*The **Mission committee** is **starting a new mission project** focusing on the Sault. We are starting to **collect** new or clean lightly used **clothing for the local elementary schools** to hand out to children in need. The sizes range from children’s 5 through 16. Some needed items are socks, underwear, leggings, jogging or sweatpants in black, blue, and gray, sweatshirts, and hoodies. The **box in the hall by the elevator** is the **collection site**.
Reminder: **No T-shirts** are needed **at this time**. For more information, please contact Barb Carlisle at 517-740-9311.*

Hiring - Family Ministries Coordinator Position

Do you know someone who enjoys working with children and loves God? **CUMC** is **seeking** to hire a **Family Ministries Coordinator**. The position is **part-time** with **flexible hours** and has a **strong support team**. A job description is available in the church office. Anyone **interested** or with questions is encouraged to **contact Pastor Marty** at the church office or **Terri Bush** at **906-440-2850**.

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Oct. 7 – Bob LeCureux
Oct. 8 – Bev Proulx
Oct. 10 – Chris Larson (26th)

This Week

Wednesday – **Bell Choir rehearsal @ 6 PM** in the CUMC choir room.
– **Choir rehearsal @ 7 PM** in the CUMC choir room.
Thursday – **Ad Board Meeting in the CUMC Library @7 PM**

Saturday - The **Women of Faith Lutheran Church** are holding their annual **Bazaar & Salad Buffet** from **11:30 AM – 1:30 PM** at **Fatih Lutheran Church 1600 Park St.**

Save the Date

- Sun., Oct. 13th** – **Homecoming and Bible Sunday** during worship with treats after the service. Be sure to wear your favorite team jersey.
– **CYC Meeting @ 11:45 a.m.** in the CUMC Lounge.
- Wed., Oct. 16th** – **Family Night at CUMC from 5:30 PM – 7 PM.** Dinner is served before the lesson.
- Sun., Oct. 20th** – **Rebecca Circle** will hold their **Annual Pie Sale in the FH** after the service.
- Sun., Oct. 27th** – **Stewardship Sunday**
– Annual **Church Conference @12:30 PM**, preceded by **SPRC at noon**

*CLOSING HYMN “Now Let Us from This Table Rise” UMH 634
DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

BENEDICTION

*God be with you till we meet again, by his council guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again...*

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in F”

Ashford

Financial gifts can be mailed to Algonquin UMC or Central UMC at: 111 E. Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	
Website: www.cumcsoo.org	Online Giving: https://cumcsoo.org/give/
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