



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, December 1, 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
December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle /Kris Donarski

Liturgist: Gwen Worley

PRELUDE "Es Ist Ein Ros" Rasley

CHORAL INTROIT "Rejoice, Rejoice With Music" J. Martin / S. Nordmeyer

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

Leader: To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls; in You we trust, O God.

People: Guide us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation,
and our hope is in You all day long.

Leader: Remember, Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

People: Do not remember the sins of our youth or our rebellious ways; according
to Your love, remember us, for You, Lord, are good.

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord; He instructs sinners in His ways.

People: He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.

Leader: All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep
His covenant and promises.

All: Show us Your paths, Lord, and lead us in hope. We trust in Your unfailing
love and look to You, our Savior, this Advent season. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VS 1-4 UMH 211
VENI EMMANUEL

***PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER**

Advent Candle Lighting - Hope

Leader:

The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good promise I made to my people.

People:

In those days and at that time, God will bring forth a righteous branch to bring justice and righteousness.

Leader:

Today, we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope.

People:

We light this candle as a reminder that our hope is in the promises of God, who is faithful and true.

Leader:

The Lord is our righteousness, our source of hope and salvation.

All:

Come, Lord Jesus, our Hope and our Light. Amen.

The first candle is lit.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

In Luke 21:25-36, Jesus talks about signs of His return, including chaos in nature and fear among people. He says these events will show that God's kingdom is near. Jesus urges His followers to stay alert and trust Him, comparing these signs to the way budding trees signal summer's arrival. He warns against becoming distracted by worry or sinful living, reminding them to pray and stay strong. Jesus promises that His words will never pass away and encourages hope in God's plan.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:25-36

- 25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.
- 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.
- 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
- 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
- 29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees.
- 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.
- 32 “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.
- 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
- 34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.
- 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth.
- 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

CHOIRUS ANTHEM “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” C. Wesley/ J. Carter

SERMON Hope in Chaos

Communion:

Invitation to the Table

Leader: As we begin this season of Advent, we come to this table with hearts full of expectation and hope. Christ, our Emmanuel, invites all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another to come and share in this holy meal. Here, at this table, we remember the promises of God, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and we await His coming again.

Confession and Pardon

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: Lord of hope and promise, we confess that we have not always trusted in Your faithfulness. We have allowed fear and worry to cloud our vision of Your kingdom. Forgive us, we pray. Renew in us a spirit of hope, that we may walk in Your ways and reflect Your love. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ came into the world to save sinners. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

In this season of Advent, we give thanks for the hope You bring—hope that sustains us, even as we await the fullness of Your kingdom. You sent prophets to prepare the way, and in the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be the Light of the World, our Emmanuel.

And so, with all Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: 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!

Leader: 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 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:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Leader: 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. By Your Spirit, 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.

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

All: Amen.

Receiving the Elements

Leader: Come to the table of hope, for Christ has prepared this feast for you. Let us share in this holy meal with joy and thanksgiving.

(Communion is served.)

Post-Communion Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Thank You, Lord, for meeting us at this table of grace. As we leave this place, may the hope of Advent fill our hearts and guide our steps. Strengthen us to live as Your people, bearing the light of Christ into the world. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we light the candle of hope and reflect on God's promises, let us offer our gifts as an expression of trust in His faithfulness. May our giving today bring hope to others and further the work of His kingdom in our church and community.

OFFERTORY

"Vignette"

Ritter

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

UMH 95
OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts to You, trusting in Your faithfulness and the hope You bring to our lives. Use them to bless others, to shine Your light in the darkness, and to build Your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

HYMN

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

UMH 203
ELLACOMBE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: receive 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 – December 1, 2024

We are accepting cash donations as you leave the sanctuary at either door to support local elementary schools. These funds will help purchase essential items. We are also collecting children's clothing (sizes 6-14), including socks, pants, sweatshirts, winter jackets, mittens, hats, and boots. If easier, Walmart or Meijer gift cards can be placed in the offering plate for purchases. The schools have requested head lice treatment kits (any brand). Donation bins are located by the upper elevator. Thank you for your generous support! For questions, contact Barb Carlisle.

Sun., Dec. 15th - Celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent in Style!

Let’s spread some festive cheer and come together in our most joyful and creative holiday attire! Whether you’re rocking a silly Christmas sweater, sporting a full Candy Cane print suit, or anything in between, we invite you to join in the fun as we celebrate this season of anticipation and joy.

Come dressed to spread the holiday spirit as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ!

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Dec 8th – Karen Aikens

This Week

Save the Date

Sun., Dec 8th -Holiday Brass Concert @ 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. by the SteelTown Silver Band Directed by Dr. John Wilkinson - Admission by donation.

Wed., Dec. 11 – Family Night at CUMC Fellowship Hall
5:30 PM – 7 PM. Dinner is served before the lesson.

Sun., Dec. 15th – The Children’s Christmas program will be during worship service.

Tues., Dec 24th – Christmas Eve service, 7:00 p.m.

*CLOSING HYMN “O Day of God, Draw Nigh” UMH 730
ST. MICHAEL
CHORAL BENEDICTION “Share The Light” J. Martin/ Nordmeyer

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 “Macht hoc die Tur” Balcombe

Adult Bible Study, Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM
led by Ray and Diane Bell - ALL are welcome.

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/>

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Office Phone: 906-632-8672

Pastor’s Cell Phone: 906-440-0288

Office Email: centralumc632@gmail.com

Pastor’s Email: pastormartyj@yahoo.com