



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, December 8, 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 8, 2024  
Second Sunday of Advent - Peace  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

Ushers/Greeters: Ray Bell /James Bankson

Liturgist: Ray Bell

Advent Readers: Bev & John Proulx

PRELUDE "Carol of the Bells" arr. K. Boyce -- Bell Choir

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 WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

**Leader:** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has come to His people and redeemed them.

**People:** He has raised up a mighty Savior for us, bringing peace and salvation to His people.

**Leader:** Through His holy prophets, He promised of old that He would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

**People:** He promised to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember His holy covenant, giving us peace through His faithfulness.

**Leader:** This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship Him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.

**People:** By His tender mercy, the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

**Leader:** He guides our feet into the way of peace, bringing calm to our restless hearts and hope to the world.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, and lead us in the way of everlasting peace. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN                      “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH 196  
HYFRYDOL

\*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER

**Advent Candle Lighting - Peace**

**Leader:** Last week, we lit the Candle of Hope, reminding us of the hope we have in Christ, who comes to save us.

Today, we light the Candle of Peace, declaring that Jesus is the Prince of Peace who calms our hearts and restores the world.

**People: In a world filled with conflict and uncertainty, we long for the peace that only Christ can bring.**

**Leader:** As it is written in the book of Isaiah: “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

**People: We prepare our hearts for the Prince of Peace, who makes the crooked paths straight and brings salvation to all.**

**Leader:** We light this candle as a sign of the peace Christ offers—peace that passes all understanding and leads us into wholeness.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, our Hope and our Peace. Shine in our hearts and in the world. Amen.**

*Two purple candles are lit.*

# TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

## INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

This morning's reading introduces John the Baptist, who begins preaching in the wilderness during the rule of key leaders like Caesar and Herod. John calls people to prepare for the coming of the Lord by repenting of their sins and turning their hearts to God. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, he describes his mission as making paths straight, filling valleys, and smoothing rough roads so that all people can see God's salvation. His message invites everyone to prepare spiritually for the arrival of Jesus, the Savior.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-6

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

BELL CHOIRUS ANTHEM      “Good King Wenceslas”      arr. R. McKee

SERMON      Preparing for Change

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we prepare the way for Christ this Advent, we are invited to reflect His hope and peace through our giving. May this offering be a sign of our faith and a contribution to God’s work in the world.

CHORAL OFFERTORY      "The Coming Joy"      arr. J.M. Martin

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 DEDICATION<sup>2</sup>

God of hope and peace, we dedicate these gifts to You, trusting that You will use them to make a difference in the lives of others. Bless this offering and guide us to be faithful stewards of Your love and grace in the world. Amen.

HYMN      “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

UMH 209  
MERLE’S TUNE

## 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 8, 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. 15<sup>th</sup>** - 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!

**Thurs., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>** - Blue Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m. @ AUMC



**Join Us for a Christmas Eve Social Gathering!**



After the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, we invite you to a festive social gathering to celebrate the season! Finger Foods, Hot Cider, Hot Chocolate & Treats Robin Myers will have a sign-up sheet available for you to contribute to the refreshments. Feel free to bring your favorite holiday snacks and drinks!

## **Past Holiday Photos Wanted!**

Cathy Wilkinson is putting together a fun slideshow featuring cherished holiday memories. Please send your past holiday photos to Cathy at wilkinsoncathy@gmail.com to be included in the slideshow.

We look forward to celebrating with you and sharing the joy of Christmas!

## **Central Birthday/Anniversary**

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – Gwen Worley & Mary Arfstrom  
Dec 10<sup>th</sup> -Karen and Jim Aikens 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

## **This Week**

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

## **Save the Date**

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

Thurs., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> - Blue Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m. @ AUMC

Tues., Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve service, 7:00 p.m. Social gathering after the service.

*CLOSING HYMN	“Let There Be Peace on Earth”	UMH 431 WORLD PEACE
CHORAL BENEDICTION	“Share The Light”	J. Martin/ Nordmeyer
POSTLUDE	“Macht hoc die Tur”	Balcombe

## **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.*

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](http://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](mailto:centralumc632@gmail.com) Pastor’s Email: [pastormartyj@yahoo.com](mailto:pastormartyj@yahoo.com)

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