

Epiphany



Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

Sunday, January 5, 2025

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
January 5, 2025
Epiphany
CCLI License# 3999519

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

Liturgist: Ray Bell

Communion: Colleen Arbic & Robin Myers

PRELUDE

“To Follow the Star”
“The Star in the East”

Ritter
Higgins

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

Leader: Arise, Shine, for your light has come,

People: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Darkness may cover the earth,

People: But the Lord rises upon His people, and glory appears over us.

Leader: Nations will come to His light,

People: And kings to the brightness of His dawn.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around; the Lord gathers His people together.

People: He brings sons and daughters from afar, bearing the gifts of their hearts.

Leader: The abundance of the sea will be turned to Him, and the wealth of
nations will come.

People: They will bring gold and frankincense and proclaim the praise of the
Lord.

Leader: Come, Let us worship the Lord, the Light of the World!

People: We rejoice in His glory and lift His name in praise!

***OPENING HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Vs.1,2,3,6)

UMH 234
ADESTE FIDELES

PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER *

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

This morning's reading tell us that after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east followed a star to find Him. They asked King Herod where the new "king of the Jews" was, which made Herod very nervous. The star led them to Jesus, and they brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, worshiping Him as King. God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went home a different way, avoiding the king's plans to harm the child.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem

² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."^[b]

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Is There Anybody Out There?

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As the wise men brought their gifts to honor the Christ child, we are invited to bring our gifts to God today. May our offerings reflect our gratitude for His light in our lives and our commitment to share that light with the world.

COMMUNION

Confession and Pardon

Pastor and People: Merciful God, You sent Your Son as the light of the world, but we often choose to walk in darkness. We have failed to love our neighbors and neglected the needs of the lowly. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us back to Your light and make us instruments of Your grace, that we may reflect the love of Christ in all we do. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Pastor and People Together: Glory to God. Amen.

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, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. By the leading of a star, You revealed Your Son to the nations. You call all people to come and worship Him, to see Your glory, and to walk in Your light. And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

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. As the wise men brought gifts to honor the child Jesus, so we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the 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. 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 Father, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

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

(Distribute the elements)

Closing Prayer

Pastor and People: Eternal God, We give You thanks for this holy mystery in which You have revealed Yourself to us. May Your light guide our path, and may

Your love inspire our lives, that we may go forth to share Your grace and truth with the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

"The Star and the Magi"

Taylor

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

Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts to Your glory, that they may bring light to the places of darkness and hope to the hearts of the weary. Use them and us to proclaim the good news of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

"We Three Kings"

UMH 254

KINGS OF ORIENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: God of grace,

All: Receive our prayer.

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and plants, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

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 – January 5, 2025

The Christmas decorations in the sanctuary need to be taken down after today's church service. If you're able, please plan to stay and help.

Central UMC will have a soup luncheon after worship service.

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Jan. 7th – Tony McLain – Jan. 11th – Pete Bush
Jan. 8th – Barb and Jon Carlisle 48th Anniv.
Jan. 10th – Diana and Ron Morgan 65th Anniv.

This Week

Save the Date

**Wed., Jan 15th - Family Night at CUMC Fellowship Hall @
5:30 PM-7 PM. Dinner is served before the lesson.**

*CLOSING HYMN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

UMH 240
MENDELSSOHN

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

“Psalm of Glory”

Wells

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

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