



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, February 2, 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  
February 2, 2025  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

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

Liturgist: Sherry Hutchins

Communion: Mary Beth Aikens / Diane Bell

**PRELUDE**

“Is This Not Bread”

Rudolf

**CHORAL INTROIT**

“My Life is in You, Lord”

D.Gardner

**WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

**Leader:** In You, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

**People:** In Your righteousness, deliver me and rescue me.

**Leader:** Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

**People:** For You, O Lord, are my hope and my trust from my youth.

**Leader:** Upon You I have leaned from my birth; it was You who took me from my  
mother's womb.

**People:** My praise is continually of You!

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Leaning of the Everlasting Arms”

UMH 133  
SHOWALTER

**PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER \***

**TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS**

**INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Have you ever felt misunderstood or doubted, even when you were doing the right thing? In today's scripture, Jesus faces rejection in His own hometown after boldly declaring His mission. This passage reminds us that staying true to our purpose isn't always easy, but God gives us the strength to persevere.

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 4:21-30

<sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

<sup>24</sup> “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

<sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land.

<sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.

<sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.

<sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff.

<sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come to the Table”

Koerts/Nichols

SERMON

Courage When Rejected

COMMUNION

**Confession and Pardon**

**Pastor and People:** Merciful God, You sent Your Son to show us the depth of Your love, but too often we shrink back in fear when faced with rejection. We have failed to stand firm in faith and to trust Your plan when the world pushes back. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our courage and fill us with Your Spirit, that we may reflect Your love boldly 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. When Your Son Jesus stood in His hometown and declared Your truth, He was rejected. Yet, He remained faithful to His mission, showing us how to trust in Your plan even when it is difficult. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He revealed the depth of Your love and called us to follow Him with courage. 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. Through His courage in the face of rejection, He showed us the way of faithfulness and love. 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 we gather at this table, we remember 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:

**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 Communion Prayer:**

**Pastor and People:** Eternal God, We give You thanks for this holy mystery in which You have given Yourself to us. Strengthen us with courage and faith to face rejection and challenges, that we may boldly proclaim Your love to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

God's grace is steadfast, even in our hardest moments. As we give our gifts today, let us do so with grateful hearts, knowing that our offerings help shine God's light in the places it's needed most.

**OFFERTORY**

"Christe Sanctorum"

arr. Price

**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 DEDICATION<sup>2</sup>**

Loving God, as we present these gifts, we also offer our lives. Strengthen our faith to boldly share Your love, even in the face of challenges. Use these offerings to build Your kingdom and bring glory to Your name. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

With the spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; Bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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 – February 2, 2025**

Membership class meets in the Lounge following the service.  
Youth will be collecting donations for missions after the service.  
Join us for “Soup-er” Sunday downstairs!

### **Central Birthday/Anniversary**

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – Pat Bennin

### **This Week**

**Wed., Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Bell Choir Rehearsal - 6 p.m., Choir Rehearsal - 7 p.m. @  
CUMC.

### **Save the Date**

**Wed., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** - **Family Night at CUMC Fellowship Hall @  
5:30 PM-7 PM. Dinner is served before the lesson.**

\*CLOSING HYMN      “God of Love and God of Power”      UMH 578  
UNSER HERRSCHER

### **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.*

CHORAL BENEDICTION      “Let Us Be Bread”      T. Porter

POSTLUDE      “A New Year’s Song”      Hughes

Financial gifts can be mailed to Algonquin UMC or Central UMC at: 111 E. Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	
Website: <a href="http://www.cumcsoo.org">www.cumcsoo.org</a>	Online Giving: <a href="https://cumcsoo.org/give/">https://cumcsoo.org/give/</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Mon.-Thurs 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.</b>
Office Phone: 906-632-8672	Pastor’s Cell Phone: 906-440-0288
Office Email: <a href="mailto:centralumc632@gmail.com">centralumc632@gmail.com</a>	Pastor’s Email: <a href="mailto:pastormartyj@yahoo.com">pastormartyj@yahoo.com</a>

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