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*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, November 16, 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  
November 16, 2025  
Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

Ushers/Greeters: Tom Brown, Kelley Bunker  
Liturgist: Jerry Bell

PRELUDE "Lobe den Herren" arr. Hopson

BELL CHORAL INTROIT "Tallis` Canon" arr. M. Tucker

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

**\*Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 121)

**Leader:** I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

**People:** Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**Leader:** The Lord will not let your foot be moved; the One who watches over you will not slumber.

**People:** The Lord is our keeper—our shade at our right hand, our refuge in every storm.

**Leader:** Come, lift up your hearts to the God who made the earth in beauty and who holds our lives in steadfast love.

**All:** We worship the Lord, our help and our hope, the One who watches over us now and forevermore.

PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER \*

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

If you’ve ever looked at something solid — something that felt like it would last forever — and then watched it crumble, you can understand how the disciples felt in today’s passage.

They were standing in awe of the temple in Jerusalem — the heart of their faith, the symbol of God’s presence. Its stones were massive, its beauty unmatched. And then Jesus says something that must have shaken them to the core: *The days will come when not one stone will be left upon another.*”

He goes on to speak of wars, earthquakes, persecution — things that sound unsettlingly familiar. But the point of this passage isn’t despair. It’s endurance. Jesus is preparing His followers, not frightening them.

He’s saying, *Don’t be terrified. These things don’t mean I’ve abandoned you. Hold on. Keep your witness. I’ll give you the words you need.*”

So as we listen today, we hear not a message of fear, but of faith — the kind of steady trust that looks up to the hills and says, *My help comes from the Lord.*”

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21: 5-19

<sup>5</sup> Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said,

<sup>6</sup> “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup> “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

<sup>8</sup> He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them.

<sup>9</sup> When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

<sup>10</sup> Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

<sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.

<sup>13</sup> And so you will bear testimony to me.

<sup>14</sup> But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves.

<sup>15</sup> For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

<sup>16</sup> You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

<sup>17</sup> Everyone will hate you because of me.

<sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish.

<sup>19</sup> Stand firm, and you will win life.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Make a Joyful Noise”

arr. J. Reeves

SERMON

When the Hard Rain Falls

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jesus reminds us that the truest gifts we give are not measured by size or spectacle, but by the faith and endurance behind them.

As we bring our tithes and offerings, may these gifts become signs of trust—seeds of hope planted in a world that often feels uncertain.

## BELL OFFERTORY

“Canon of Grace”

arr. L. Lamb

## 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

Gracious and steadfast God, You hold all things together when the world feels fragile. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Strengthen our hands for Your kingdom’s work, steady our hearts in times of change, and use all we offer—our resources, time, and love—to bear witness to Your enduring grace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## \*HYMN

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

UMH 694

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

**Leader:** Lord, in Your Mercy,

**All:** Hear our prayer.

## **Pastor:**

With confidence in the God who holds all things together, whose mercy endures even when the world trembles, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

### **For the Church**

Faithful God, You are the Lord of both the living and the dead. When temples crumble and certainties fade, keep Your Church rooted in the hope that does not fail. When we grow anxious or weary, remind us that You are still *I AM*—ever present, ever faithful, ever alive. Give us courage to speak Your word and to endure with grace.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For the World**

God of all nations, Teach the leaders of the earth humility instead of pride, justice instead of vengeance, and compassion instead of indifference. In a world of upheaval and fear, plant seeds of peace. Let Your kingdom break through where hatred reigns, and Your mercy rise where despair has taken root.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For Creation**

Creator of all that is, You have made a world of beauty that testifies to Your glory. Guard our land, air, and water from harm. When we take creation for granted, turn us toward gratitude and care. Help us live as faithful stewards until all creation joins in praise.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For Our Community**

God of steadfast love, Bless this community of Sault Ste. Marie and all our neighbors. Strengthen bonds of kindness and trust. Where there is division, bring understanding; where there is loneliness, bring friendship; and where there is need, awaken generosity.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For Those in Need**

Merciful Lord, Draw near to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Give strength to the persecuted and hope to the fearful. Comfort the grieving, heal the sick, and grant peace to those who are weary. Remind each one that not even trouble or trial can separate us from Your love.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

## **For the Saints and Our Own Journeys of Faith**

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and our God too—We thank You for the faithful who have gone before us, whose endurance and trust inspire our own. Teach us to live with the same steady faith, that when our time comes, we too may be found alive in You.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **Pastor:**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **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 – November 16, 2025**

**\*\*Please Remember** that the youth will be outside after the service on the ***1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month*** to collect a Mission Love Offering and new this year, we now have a ***Misson's Change Jar*** (located on table at top of stairs) to use any time. All proceeds will go toward helping elementary school children with their needs.

**Missions:** is also collecting shelf stable foods for the elementary school. The kind of food needed is: oatmeal packets, pop tarts, granola bars, cracker packs, Chef Boyardi, canned soup and vegetable's, easy Mac and cheese, and ramen noodles. There is a tub outside the elevator upstairs and in the fellowship hall that food can be left in.

**The Holiday Season** is fast approaching us, and the ***Poinsettias Orders*** are already being taken. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia plant, just fill out the form enclosed in the bulletin and bring it to the office with your check. These orders are **due by Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

*Join us for Bible Study*

*Sunday at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge led by Raymond Bell.*

**Central Birthday/Anniversary**

**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Bob Arfsrom    **Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>** – Bob Vincent  
**Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Pat Deatrck

**Save the Date**

**Sun., 11/16** - **Richard Gilewitz** and special guest **Tim May** will be at **CMUC** to put on a **Guitar Concert at 3pm**, this event is free, but donations are welcome. This should be a great night of Entertainment.

**Mon., 11/17** - **Rebecca Circle Meeting at 1:30pm**; Ginger Bath & Phillis Cousino are the hosts this month.

**Wed. 11/19** - **Family Night at CUMC**—from 5:30–7:00 PM! Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fun activities, and a meaningful lesson for all ages. Bring the whole family—everyone is welcome!

**Sun., 11/24** – **Join us for Central's "Hanging of the Greens"** after morning services! We'll be decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season, with tasks like trimming the tree, hanging boughs, assembling the creche, and putting up lights. No experience is required—just come ready to help and share in the holiday spirit!



Nursery is available for infants through age 3 during worship with Mallory Baier. The nursery is located downstairs, and ushers will be happy to assist you.

## BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION “ In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” J. Berthier

POSTLUDE “My Heart Shall Rejoice” Nordman

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.**

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