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*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, November 23, 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 23, 2025  
Christ the King Sunday  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle, Kris Donaski  
Liturgist: John Wilkinson

PRELUDE "Kremser" Bradshaw

CHORAL INTROIT "God Almighty, We are Waiting" Worley/Prichard

### WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

**\*Call to Worship:** A Modern Affirmation - UMH 885 Adapted

**Leader:** Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is one Church —  
grounded in the teachings of the apostles and united by God's love  
across the earth. Let us declare together the faith we share:

**All:**

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love,  
whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his  
children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the  
Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our  
deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives,  
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ,  
and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, so that God's kingdom of love and justice may take root in this world.

**Leader:** Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

UMH 327

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER \*

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

We've just sung of Christ crowned in glory, and declared our faith in the kingdom of love and justice He brings. Now, the Gospel takes us to the place where that kingdom was first revealed — not in splendor, but in suffering. Here, at the cross, the sign above Jesus reads “King of the Jews.” It's meant as mockery, yet it tells the deepest truth: this is what divine kingship looks like — a love that forgives even from the cross. As we hear these words from Luke, may we see our King not in power and might, but in mercy and grace.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23: 33-43

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”<sup>[c]</sup> And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar

<sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?”

<sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.<sup>[d]</sup>”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Lord of Harvest”

arr. A. Lovelace

SERMON

A Kingdom Like No Other

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

In a world that measures power by how much we keep, Christ shows His kingship through how much He gives. As citizens of His kingdom, let us give joyfully and freely, that His love and justice may take root through us.

## OFFERTORY

“Safe in His Care”

Paxton

## 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 giving King, You reign not by taking, but by giving Yourself for the world. Use these gifts—and use us—to share Your mercy, extend Your grace, and reveal the beauty of Your kingdom here on earth. In the name of Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

## \*HYMN

“When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”

UMH 298

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDEROUS CROSS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

**Leader:** Lord, in Your Mercy,  
**All:** Hear our prayer.

## **Pastor:**

Let us pray for the coming of God’s kingdom on earth—a kingdom unlike any other, where grace rules instead of fear, and love reigns even from a cross.

### **For the Church**

Lord Jesus, King of the Church, You reign not through wealth or armies, but through mercy that heals and truth that sets free.

Strengthen Your Church to bear witness in a world that often mistakes might for right. Unite us in humble service, that Your kingdom may be seen not in our power, but in our love.

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

### **For the World**

Sovereign God, You hold the nations in Your hands, and yet You care for the smallest sparrow. Where leaders hunger for control, teach them compassion. Where violence shouts, whisper Your peace. Where injustice spreads, plant seeds of righteousness that will not be uprooted. Reign, O Christ, until the whole earth reflects Your justice and joy.

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

### **For Creation**

Creator and King, The earth is Yours and all that is in it. Forgive us when we treat Your handiwork as our possession. Heal the wounds we have inflicted upon land, sky, and sea. Restore balance where greed has scarred Your garden, and let all creation join the chorus that proclaims You Lord of all.

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

### **For Our Community**

Loving Savior, You reign here as surely as in heaven. Bless the neighborhoods of Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding communities. Strengthen families, guide schools, and sustain those who serve in quiet ways. Where hearts are lonely, send companionship; where resources are thin, stir generosity; where hope is dim, shine Your light.

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

### **For Those in Need**

Compassionate Christ, You remember the forgotten and forgive the undeserving. Draw near to those who suffer—the sick, the grieving, the anxious, the weary. Speak to them the same promise You gave the thief on the cross: “Today you will be with me.” Let Your presence bring peace stronger than pain and hope deeper than despair.

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

### **For the Saints and for Ourselves**

Eternal King, We give thanks for those who have finished their race and now rest in Your care. Give us courage to follow their example of faith, trusting that Your kingdom is already among us and yet still coming in glory. Make us faithful until that day when every tear is wiped away and every knee bows before You.

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

### **Pastor:**

Receive these prayers, O Christ our King. Reign in us and through us, until Your kingdom of love and justice fills the earth. And now, with the confidence of Your children, we pray as You taught us:

### **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 – November23, 2025**

**For the Advent season**, we are in need of readers/candle lighters. Contact Robin if you would be willing to help during the Christmas season.

**The Worship Committee** is looking toward the new year and is always looking for additional ushers, liturgists, and communion stewards. Also, Robin Myers appreciates help with hosting the online service (it's REALLY easy to do!). If you cannot attend the service in person, but watch online regularly, this would be perfect for you. Contact Robin at (906)632-0682) if you would be willing to help.

**\*\*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. *They would also like to Thank the members who have drop off items.*

**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**

**Save the Date**

**Sun., 11/23 – 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 crche, 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.

\* CLOSING HYMN      “For the Healing of the Nations”      UMH 428  
FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

## BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE      Fantasia on “ Nun Danket”      Livingston

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:marty.johnston16@gmail.com">marty.johnston16@gmail.com</a>