

WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
"I AM NOT THE ONE WHO LOVES – IT'S LOVE THAT CHOOSES ME." LEONARD COHEN
~~~~~  
~~~~~

(* INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.)

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK AS IT IS PASSED DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS; THEN PASS IT TOWARD THE CENTER AISLE.)

A TIME OF REFLECTION

***OPENING HYMN: #449 SOFTLY AND TENDERLY (ALL VERSES)**

WILL L. THOMPSON, 1880; ALT.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

JIM McNEIL, LAY READER

LEADER: DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE WICKED OR ENVY THOSE WHO DO WRONG. FOR LIKE GRASS, THEY SOON FADE AWAY. LIKE SPRING FLOWERS, THEY SOON WITHER.

ALL: LET'S LIVE GOD'S WAY!

LEADER: TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD. THEN YOU WILL LIVE SAFELY IN THE LAND AND PROSPER. TAKE DELIGHT IN THE LORD, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU YOUR HEART'S DESIRE.

ALL: LET'S LIVE GOD'S WAY!

LEADER: COMMIT EVERYTHING YOU DO TO THE LORD. TRUST HIM, AND HE WILL HELP YOU. HE WILL MAKE YOUR INNOCENCE RADIATE LIKE THE DAWN, AND THE JUSTICE OF YOUR CAUSE WILL SHINE LIKE THE NOONDAY SUN.

ALL: LET'S LIVE GOD'S WAY!

LEADER: BE STILL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM TO ACT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT EVIL PEOPLE WHO PROSPER OR FRET ABOUT THEIR WICKED SCHEMES.

ALL: LET'S LIVE GOD'S WAY!

LEADER: STOP BEING ANGRY! TURN FROM YOUR RAGE! DO NOT LOSE YOUR TEMPER – IT ONLY LEADS TO HARM. FOR THE WICKED WILL BE DESTROYED, BUT THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD WILL POSSESS THE LAND.

ALL: LET'S LIVE GOD'S WAY! TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD. AMEN.

***OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

ALL: MAGNIFICENT GOD, YOU ARE WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE, REVERENCE, AND HONOR. YOU COME TO US, AND YOU COME FOR US. YOUR EMBRACE SAVES US FROM THE CONDEMNATION OF THIS WORLD. YOUR TANGIBLE EXAMPLE LEADS US ON THE PATH TO DISRUPT THE SINFUL SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION THAT KEEP YOUR CREATION FROM LIFE ABUNDANT. YOUR PRESENCE ASSURES US THAT YOUR COVENANT IS EVERLASTING AND TRUE. WITH THANKSGIVING AND AWE, WE WORSHIP YOU. AMEN.

***THE GLORIA PATRI (SUNG)**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY GHOST; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

WORDS: ANONYMOUS, 4TH CENTURY. MUSIC: HENRY GREATOREX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 10:35-45

SERMON: "CHOOSE ME! REALLY?"

REV. LAURA HOFFMAN

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

***HYMN: #327 JESUS LOVES ME (ALL VERSES)**

ST. 1, ANNA B. WARNER, 1860

ST. 2-3, DAVID RUTHERFORD MCGUIRE, 1971

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LEADER: THE INVITATION TO GIVE A GIFT IS NOT A DEBT. WE SHARE OUR RESOURCES BECAUSE WE WERE CREATED TO BE MUTUALLY DEPENDENT UPON ONE ANOTHER. WHEN WE GIVE GENEROUSLY, WE DEMONSTRATE OUR FAITH IN GOD'S GENEROSITY, PROVISION, AND ABUNDANCE. THEREFORE, LET US GIVE WITH THANKSGIVING AND LOVE FOR GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 20, 2024

*As an Open and Affirming congregation,
we welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



*The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin, Transition Minister
The Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Organist & Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski
Office Administrator: Nancy Ross
Treasurer: Denise Fusina
Custodian: Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am — 1:00pm, Monday — Thursday
Phone: (989) 356-1795

Email: officeuccalp@gmail.com — Web page: www.uccalpena.org
201 South Second Avenue • Alpena, Michigan 49707

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

***CLOSING HYMN: #473 BLESSED ASSURANCE (ALL VERSES)**

FANNY CROSBY 1873; ALT..

***BENEDICTION**

***UNISON RESPONSE:**

**AND GOD WILL RAISE YOU UP ON EAGLE'S WINGS, BEAR YOU ON THE BREATH OF DAWN,
MAKE YOU TO SHINE LIKE THE SUN, AND HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HAND. AMEN.**

POSTLUDE

**OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY**

LAY READER: JIM MCNEIL

ALTAR GUILD: DEBORAH DESIMONE

USHERS: PAT LABADIE AND VICKY LINDSAY GREETERS: JIM STRALEY AND BEV OLSEN

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: CRAIG WAAK & LORI MAYER

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY	OCTOBER 20	10:00 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE CIDER SUNDAY
MONDAY	OCTOBER 21		DEADLINE FOR INVESTMENT PLANNING OPPORTUNITY