

Welcome, All Worshipers

**Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

"Live in Christ, die in Christ, and then flesh need not fear death." – John Knox (1572)

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LORI MAYER, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

***OPENING HYMN: #216 ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR ALL VERSES**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Give thanks to God for God is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever! Hosanna!

Leader: We give thanks to God who answers us, for God is our saving help!

All: The stone the builders rejected is now the cornerstone! Hosanna!

Leader: Our salvation is at hand!

All: It is marvelous to behold! Hosanna!

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad! Hosanna!

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Come save us, Lord! Hosanna!

Leader: Give thanks to God for God is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever! Hosanna!

***Opening Prayer**

All: We confess that we are not so different from those who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, yet later shouted 'Crucify him!', or remained silent in the face of injustice. We have betrayed you too, Lord Jesus, by our sins both secret and known. Yet you died for people like us, and you rose on the third day that we might be redeemed. For the sake of Jesus Christ, you do not hold our sins against us. Jesus Christ, our King of glory, we have not been outspoken for you. We have not called for your death, but neither have we shouted of your greatness, nor expressed delight in the salvation you have won for us. Help us to see your glory, draw us closer to you that we may become more faithful and more joyful servants of the King.

Leader: The Psalmist says: "But I trust in you, O Lord, I say 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love." In Christ,

God hears; God answers; God sets us free. In Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! 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.

FIRST READING: PSALM 118:1-2 AND 19-29

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 21:1-17

SERMON: THIS IS THE DAY

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN: #223 WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS ALL VERSES**

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

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.**

***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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN: #117 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES ALL VERSES**

*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

***All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.**

***BENEDICTION**

Minister: Give thanks to God for God is good!

All: God's steadfast love endures forever! Hosanna!

(Continued on back)

Minister: We go from this place crying out for salvation!

All: Come, save us! Hosanna!

Minister: We go from this place ready to follow Jesus to the garden, the cross, and the tomb.

All: Come, save us! Hosanna!

Minister: We go from this place ready to pay attention as the waving of palms turns to a sentence of crucifixion.

All: Come. Save us. Hosanna...

Minister: We go from this place knowing that even in death, God's love endures.

All: Come. Save us. Hosanna...

***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. *Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.*

Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Lori Mayer** Altar Guild: **Sandy Jarmuzewski**
Ushers: **Lynne Stewart and Pat Labadie** Greeters: **Pat Labadie and June Perry**
Communion Ministry: **Sandy Jarmuzewski** Fellowship Hosts: **Jim & Patty McNeil and Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	April 2	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service and Fellowship Time
Monday	April 3	5:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Thursday	April 6	4:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	April 6	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	April 7	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service

Announcements

- ❖ For all those who wish to help plan our Church Family Reunion and 50-Year Member Celebration, please use the sign-up sheet in the middle hall.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

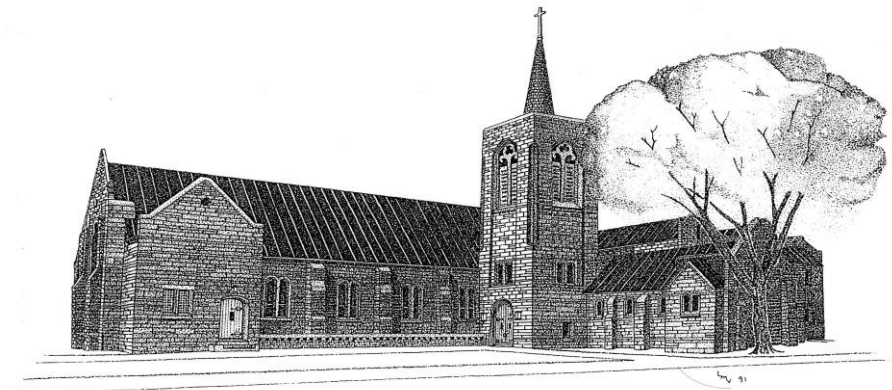
SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

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A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.  
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Palm / Passion Sunday
April 2, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Live-stream Technician: *Brayden Broad*
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