

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

“The biggest problem with American Christianity is that we have a Loving Father
Gospel in an Elder Brother Church.”

~ Ernest Campbell, an American Presbyterian clergyman, theologian and writer most
remembered as senior minister of New York City's Riverside Church from 1968-1976

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

Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BORIS GERBER, LAY READER

Moment for Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing

***OPENING HYMN: #7 – ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL ALL VERSES**

*Call to Worship

Leader: It is the young man whom we know as the prodigal son who said in
desperation, “I will arise and go to my Father and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have
sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your
child; treat me as one of your servants.’”

All: In this time of Lent we recognize our own unworthiness and inadequacy.

Leader: Even as we return home to God, we hear the unexpected words of
forgiveness, “Rejoice, my child - you were dead and are alive again, you were lost
and now are found.”

All: Let us rejoice that we are at home in God's love.

*Prayer of Confession

**All: Reconciling God, compassionate Christ, we realize that we have often
resembled enemy agents more than ministers of reconciliation. With angry words
and vindictive actions we have harmed our brothers and sisters. We have
dehumanized those we do not wish to understand. We distance ourselves from**

those who disappoint us or remind us of our own human frailty. Forgive us O God;
lift us to a higher, holier purpose. Help us to draw as close to each other as you
drew to us in Christ. Help us to regard persons no longer from a human point of
view but from the vantage point of the cross where all hostility was conquered, all
forgiveness assured. Amen.

***LENTEN SONG OF PRAISE: AS THE DEER (SEE INSERT)**

WORDS AND MUSIC BY MARTIN J. NYSTROM. 1984 UNIVERSAL MUSIC – BRENTWOOD BENSON PUBLISHING (ADMIN. BY BRENTWOOD-
BENSON MUSIC PUBLISHING INC.) PERMISSION TO REPRINT/STREAM GRANTED BY CCLI #1170235/21066794

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

ANTHEM: WE ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

CHOIR

WORDS - JOHN PARKER. MUSIC - JOEL RANEY. COPYRIGHT 2004 HOPE PUBLISHING Co. PERMISSION TO STREAM GRANTED BY
CCLI#1170235/21066794

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SERMON: CAN ALL BE SAVED?

REV. EUGENE BACON

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***CLOSING HYMN: #547 – AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND ALL VERSES**

*BENEDICTION

**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.**

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with
us, be with you now and forever. Amen.

***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 and music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from
OneLicense #A-739847.

Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Boris Gerber**
Altar Guild: **Nancy Wedge**
Counter: **Tammy Veasy**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**
and **Lynn Borke**
Fellowship Hosts: **Beth & Megan Petty**
and **Ron & Lynn Borke**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 27, 2022

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	March 27	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday	March 29	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wednesday	March 30	1:15 p.m.	Mysticism Class
Thursday	March 31	7:00 p.m.	Welcoming Committee Mtg. (virtual)

Announcements:

- ❖ This morning's altar flowers are donated by Keith Titus in memory of Virginia Titus.
- ❖ The Welcoming Committee will meet at 7:00pm this Thursday, March 31. The meeting is via Zoom, and all are welcome to attend. To join us just click the "Join Fellowship Hour Here" button on our church webpage. We continue to share ideas for our church's exploration as a welcoming church.
- ❖ This week's Lenten Challenge -- No gossiping.
- ❖ Reminders:
 - Please call or email the office before March 31 to order Easter flowers. Your order may be made in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. Tulips, hyacinths and daffodils cost \$17, and Easter lilies cost \$20.
 - If you're interested in joining the prayer group, please contact the office or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.
 - Please call or email the church office if you know of someone who would appreciate a care letter.

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



Transitional Ministers: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*
and *Reverend Eugene Bacon*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*

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

~~~~~  
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.  
~~~~~

As the Deer

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable:

¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

William Kethe, 1561

Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

1. All peo-ple that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheer-ful voice;
De-light in God whose praise you tell,
whose pres-ence calls you to re-joice.
2. Know that there is one God, in-deed,
who fash-ions us with-out our aid,
Who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose ten-der care will nev-er fade.
3. En-ter the sa-cred gates with praise,
with joy ap-proach the tem-ple walls.
Ex-tol and bless our God al-ways
as peo-ple whom the Spir-it calls.
4. Pro-claim a-gain that God is good,
whose mer-cy is for-ev-er sure,
Whose truth at all times firm-ly stood,
and shall from age to age en-dure.

Ps. 100

What Wondrous Love Is This

19th century, United States; alt.

First published in Mercer's *Cluster*, 1836

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!
What won-drous love is this, O my soul!
What won-drous love is this! that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heav-y cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!

2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.

3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy-ful be,
and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1–4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

1. A-maz-ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-
lieved;
How pre-cious did that grace ap-pear the hour I first be-lieved!
3. Through man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I have al-read-y come;
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me
home.
4. My God has prom-ised good to me, whose word my hope se-cures;
God will my shield and por-tion be as long as life en-dures.
5. When we’ve been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin-ing as the
sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first be-gun.