

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

*"We are stardust; we are golden; and we have to get ourselves back to the garden."
~Joni Mitchell, singer/songwriter, from her song Woodstock.*

(*) indicates when those who are able will stand

Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JIM MCNEIL, LAY READER

***OPENING HYMN #154 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN ALL VERSES**

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*Call to Worship

Leader: The magi come from many places, following a star.

All: We come to worship and the star sheds light on our lives.

Leader: The magi brought gifts to offer the Child!

All: We too bring gifts - ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.

Leader: Shepherds and magi - the meek and the mighty - all were welcome in Bethlehem.

All: We too come to Bethlehem and then return to our homes rejoicing.

***Opening Prayer**

All: Radiant God, all nations are drawn to your light; all people proclaim your praise. You befriend the forsaken and the hated; you are the help of the oppressed; for you have come to us in Jesus Christ. We rejoice in your great love for the world, and rise to praise you, together with people of all nations. Glory be to you, O 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 Greator. This selection is in the public domain.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12

SPECIAL MUSIC MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Words and Music: Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene. Arranged by Carol Tomquist. Copyright 1991 Word Music. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from CCLI #11170235/21066794

SANDY JARMUZEWSKI

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN #159 AS WITH GLADNESS THOSE OF OLD ALL VERSES**

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SERMON: STAR GAZING

REV. EUGENE BACON

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN #164 ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME ALL VERSES**

Words: Ruth C. Duck. Music: William Walter. Words Copyright 1993 by GIA Productions. Permission to reprint/stream from OneLicense #A-739847

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go forth in the light of God's star. Go forth committed to a journey of faith and courage. Go forth to give the precious gift of your life to Christ.

All: We will go forth and let the star guide us. We will share with others the journey of life. We will praise God, for the gift we have received is beyond measure - Jesus the Christ.

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*

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: **Jim McNeil**
Altar Guild: **Nancy Wedge**
Fellowship Hosts: **Ann and Jeff Gerow**
Special Music: **Sandy Jarmuzewski**
Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**
and **Lynn Borke**
Communion Ministry: **Nancy Wedge**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	January 2	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday	January 4	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	January 6	7:00 p.m.	Welcoming Committee Meeting (virtual via Fellowship Hour link)

Announcements:

- ❖ Hosting help for Fellowship Hour is much needed during many months in this new year. Please review the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary for details and sign-up for the month you want to help the assigned hosts. Thank you! Please contact Bill Haase (989-916-4104 or dsbhaase@live.com) with any questions.
- ❖ The Welcoming Committee is meeting at 7:00pm this Thursday, January 6. 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.

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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

January 2, 2022

*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

Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Pastor: This is the table of the Lord and belongs to no individual, church or denomination and is open to all people who wish to come closer to God shown to us in Jesus the Christ.

Pastor: Come to this table, not because you must, but because you may; not because you are strong, but because you stand in need of God's love, mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body. Come to this table as you are.

All: We come to the table that is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to be renewed and strengthened in our common mission to share God's love.

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the God of mercy.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration of Bread and Cup

The Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in the Sacrament and united us with Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

**** We sing one verse of "Let Us Break Bread Together" before we eat the bread and one verse of "Walls Mark our Bound'ries" before the cup. They are found on the inside back cover of the hymnals.**

*****During Covid we ask you to please pick up the prepackaged wafer and cup. We all partake of the bread at the same time and the same with the cup. Please dispose of the cup on your way out or place it in the holder on the back of the pew.***

Matthew 2:1-12

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Refrain:

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.

Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.

Refrain:

2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.

Refrain:

3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain:

Luke 2:8–20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

1. As with glad-ness those of old
did the guid-ing star be-hold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
So, true Morn-ing Star, may we
ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
2. As with joy-ful steps they sped
to that low-ly man-ger bed,
There to bend the knee be-fore
One whom heaven and earth a-dore;
So may we with will-ing feet
ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
3. As they of-fered gifts most rare
at that man-ger plain and bare,
So may we with ho-ly joy,
pure and free from sin's al-loy,
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring,
Christ, to you from whom they spring.
4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day
keep us in the nar-row way;
And when mor-tal things are past,
bring our ran-somed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glo-ry hide.

Matt. 2:1-12

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Ruth Duck, 1973

1. A-rise, your light is come! The Spir-it's call o-bey;
Show forth the glo-ry of your God which shines on you to-day!
2. A-rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris-on door;
Pro-claim the cap-tive's lib-er-ty, good tid-ings to the poor.
3. A-rise, your light is come! All you in sor-row born,
Bind up the bro-ken-heart-ed ones and com-fort those who mourn.
4. A-rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!
Rise up like ea-gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

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Isa. 60:1; 61:1–2; Luke 4:14–21