

## Welcome, All Worshipers

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

*“Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.” – C.S. Lewis*

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

#### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYNN BORKE, LAY READER

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

**\*OPENING HYMN: #436 GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY (VERSES 1, 2)**

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: O Creator of the Cosmos, who alone knows what the Kingdom of God is like, and remembers what it was like before.

**All: Before creation and kingdoms, before mustard seeds and fine pearls, before yeast and bakers to make bread.**

Leader: You know what it is like to long for and to imagine into being.

**All: It is for this longing for Your Kingdom, and for You, that we enter into worship.**

Leader: Yes, come and let us praise and worship the God of promise.

**All: Let us rejoice in the Good News together. Let nothing separate us from the presence of God!**

#### \*Opening Prayer

**All: O Holy Spirit, who helps us in our struggles and teaches us how to pray when we don't know what to say or do. We call on You from a sigh too deep for words.**

**Within that sigh, we wonder, we question and we hope that all things do indeed, work together for good. At this time of being together, in this time set apart, side by side in community, we are reminded how we are connected. Let us seek first the Kingdom of God, and in our searching be found by You, Beloved One, who also searches for us. 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.*

**FIRST READING: GENESIS 29: 15-28**

**SECOND READING: PSALM 105: 1-11 AND 45**

**SERMON: “SISTER WIVES”**

**REV. LAURA HOFFMAN**

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

**\*HYMN: SEEK YE FIRST (INSERT)**

#### SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING (PLEASE BE SEATED)

LEADER: 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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #451 BE NOW MY VISION (VERSES 1, 2)**

#### \*BENEDICTION

Minister: “May God give you the space to breathe and the grace to wonder. May God help each of us to walk rightly in this world and to be channels, not reservoirs, of God's great mercy and love. Share His love as you go in peace. Amen.

#### \*Unison Response:

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breadth 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: Lynn Borke  
Fellowship Hosts: Bob & Diane Kelly  
Ushers: Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski

Altar Guild: Deborah Butler  
Counters: Dennis & Jan Artley  
Greeter: Marilyn Kettler

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 30, 2023

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

## This Week's Calendar

Sunday July 30 10:00 AM Worship Service and Fellowship Time

## Announcements

- ❖ We are pleased to welcome Reverend Laura Hoffman to lead our worship service today.
- ❖ **Fellowship Hosts are still needed for August (including partial month availability). Please use the sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary.**
- ❖ July Ladies luncheon is August 11, Friday at 11:45 am at Chee Peng Restaurant, 1237 US 23 N, in Alpena. Please note that we have changed the place that we usually meet. Reservations are not necessary. Call Peg at 989-352-281-2283 or Dottie at 989-916-4104 with questions. Friends and guests are always welcome.
- ❖ Feed A Family Needs - Individual crackers & cheese packets, crackers & peanut butter packets or cookies packets, Jello or pudding 4-packs, canned Spaghettios or macaroni & sauce, soups (any kind). *Thank you for your continued support to our food pantry. ~Kathy, Salvation Army*
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.
- ❖ Worship Committee meeting Monday, August 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm.
- ❖ Your 6 month Giving Statements can be found in the Alpha Pouches outside the Pastor's Office. Thank you for your support.
- ❖ Reminder that Heifer International Sunday is Sunday, August 13.



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus  
Organist & Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski  
Office Administrator: Nancy Ross  
Treasurer: Denise Fusina  
Custodian: Mike LaMarre

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*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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