

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

May 2, 2021

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



Transitional Minister: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

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## **Welcome, All Worshipers**

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

"It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly." — Martin Luther King Jr.

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lynn Borke, **Lay Reader**

**OPENING HYMN # 400 CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION VS 1-3**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

**We come with hope for renewal.**

Leader: In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

**We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.**

Leader: Come; let us worship, as the beloved children of God.

### **INVOCATION**

Leader: Creating and Holy God,  
we come as your children to grow and learn,  
because you are our divine vine grower.  
God, we desire for you to abide within us,  
and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.  
As your branches, we ask you to nourish us  
for continued growth.  
May you transform our hearts and minds  
as we hear your Word, sing your praises,  
and engage in holy dialogue through prayer.

***All: May you help us to bear good fruit  
through the vine of Jesus Christ.  
In Whose name we pray, Amen.***

***Gloria Patri: 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.***

## SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:7, 13-15

### God Is Love

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

### John 15:1-8

### Jesus the True Vine

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

### \*Childrens Sermon/Family Time\*

### HYMN #391 IN THE MIDST OF NEW DIMENSIONS VS 1, 4 & 5

### SERMON: "Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love"

### Invitation

This table belongs to no person, church or denomination. This is the table of Christ and all are invited to partake of the bread and cup that they may come closer to the Risen Christ.

We come to this table not because we must but because we may,  
not because we are strong, but because we are weak.

We come, not because any goodness of our own gives us a right to come,  
but because we need mercy and help.

We come, because we love the Lord and would like to love him more.  
We come, because he loved us and gave himself for us.

We come and meet the risen Christ together, for we are his Body.

Pastor: God be with you

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

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

Pastor: With all the prophets and saints and all the company of heaven we glorify you by saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration**

**We receive the bread and cup.**

**Prayer of thanksgiving**

#### **PRESENTATION OF WEEKLY OFFERING**

**Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you Heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.*

**SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN #252 SAVIORS, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US VS 1-3**

**BENEDICTION:**

**ALL:** "LIFE IS SHORT AND WE HAVE TOO LITTLE TIME TO GLADDEN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO TRAVEL THE WAY WITH US. SO, BE SWIFT TO LOVE AND MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND..."

**PASTOR:** AND MAY THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU NOW AND ALWAYS.

**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, 1979, with permission CCLI#1117-0235)

**\*\*Please check the Church's Facebook and Web page for the latest information from the church and changes regarding In-person worship. Also, check our web page for the latest Alpena Covid report. \*\***

## **This Week's Calendar**

Sun    May 2            10:00 a.m.    In person Worship and Virtual Worship  
                                 1:00 p.m.    Zoom Fellowship Hour

All are welcome to join our Sunday 1:00 pm Zoom Fellowship Hour. There is a new way to join; anyone may access the Fellowship via our Church's website (<http://www.uccalpena.org/>) or Facebook. If you are prompted to enter a password, please enter: 1234

**Flowers: By Kristi Blackaby- In memory of my nephew Bentley Aikens**

### **Announcements:**

\*\*As the weather is changing and most of the congregation is fully vaccinated, it is safe to gather outside and visit with each other. Still wearing masks and social distancing. To any that are not fully vaccinated, I recommend to please continue to not socialize inside the building. Masks should be worn over your mouth and nose! And to our fully vaccinated members, if possible, please try to visit our fully vaccinated shut in members. However, please do not exceed your own comfort level. To anyone who is not vaccinated, the Health Department is now having walk-ins at the clinic here in Alpena. No appointment needed. All ages down to 18. Please check the paper for times and locations. The Alpena Mall is usually from 9am-1:30pm.

Terry Bell, RN