

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE....."God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings"

WELCOME AND SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Praise God in the heights and depths of life.

All: Surely God has shown us goodness and mercy.

Pastor: Praise God for the sun, moon, and the stars.

All: Praise God for all people of all ages and races created in God's image.

Pastor: Let God's name be praised and exalted.

All: By God's steadfast love, we are drawn to worship.

OPENING SONG....."What a Beautiful Name"

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASSING THE PEACE

UNISON PRAYER

Amid the joyful songs of Christmas, we pause O God, to let the joy seep into our souls. We take these moments to ponder your faith in us. We reach for your peace when all around us is in turmoil. May the brightness of your glory be reflected on us and may we shine the light of your love into your world. Amen.

REFLECTION SONG....."Two Thousand Years"

SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 2:13-23
Tali Merchant (she/her)

SERMON....."Holding On To Emmanuel"
Pastor Rae Mieskowski (he/him)

PRAYER SONG....."All is Well"

PASTORAL PRAYER.....The Lord's Prayer
(words on screen)

OFFERTORY....."Better Days"

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

CLOSING SONG....."Happy Xmas (War is Over)"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE....."God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

Thank you, Praise Band, for blessing us with your music this morning!

VACATION

Pastor Dan will be on vacation from December 25 through December 31. Our former student pastor, Pastor Rae Mieskowski (he/him), will lead worship on Sunday, December 28 and will be available for emergency pastoral care.

POINSETTIAS

If you ordered poinsettia plants you are welcome to take them home after worship today.

FAREWELL

Denise Fisher (she/her) is moving away to be closer to her family. Her last Sunday with us will be on January 4. Please join us to bid her a warm farewell and to thank her for her years of service for our church.

Seeking

The new year approaches.

A crystalline snow blankets the earth -

Quiet has fallen.

Comfort and peace are near.

A salty tear trails down my cheek.

With the hush memories come forth, unbidden.

A laugh issues forth before dropping into a choked sob.

There has been love. Joy. Life.

But there has also been heartbreak. Sorrow. Loss.

A breeze swirls the white flakes gently around,

Freezing the wetness on my face.

With the release and the coolness comes relief.

My soul lightens.

Yes, the darkness has touched me.

But so has the light - and it shines ahead -

Aa promise of the new year,

Beckoning me forward.

I walk toward it, my arm stretched out.

Hope.

-Taliyn Merchant

Land Acknowledgement

We, the members of Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ, acknowledge that our church resides on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabek, the People of the Three Fires: Odawa, Bodewadomi, and Ojibwe for which they were not duly compensated. We honor their historic and current sacred commitment to the land of our Creator.

Open & Affirming Statement

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming church. We celebrate our human family's diversity of race, age, cultural background, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, family structure, education, faith history, economic status, marital status, spiritual journey, and life circumstances. Aided by this God-given gift of diversity, we strive to reflect God's unconditional love to all creation, and we affirm that all people are created in God's image. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ. We believe that God is still speaking and as Jesus prayed, one day we will all be one.

We recognize that the universal church has at times rejected difference and denied God's promises for itself and others. We believe we can love alike, even though we may not think alike. So, we boldly proclaim, "Welcome, ALL who seek God's life-giving grace. Come as you are, so together, we will make a world of difference.

PRAYERS

Remember our elderly and home bound, anyone facing illness this morning, the families of Palestine, and all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

Ruth Broderick, Carol Sovereign, Sydney VanWingen, Paul Lidgard, Dale VanderMarkt, Laura Pickerd, Tali Merchant, Al Wooton, Kendra Simon, Ken Haynes, Don and Bobbi Thompson, and Lakeview UCC.

WIFI Name: HUCC Password: 6166691295



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(616) 669-1295 | LIKE us on Facebook and Instagram | Open & Affirming



Hudsonville

United Church of Christ

Open & Affirming

December 28, 2025



Rev. Dr. Daniel Furman,
Senior Pastor (he, him)



***No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here!***