



Hudsonville

United Church of Christ
Open & Affirming

January 8, 2023

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

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

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PRELUDE....."River of Dreams"

WELCOME AND SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Have you seen the star? Have you heard the good news? God who created all things has come to earth.

All: We have heard of a baby born in Bethlehem. We have seen evidence that God is with us.

Pastor: Have you given your gifts to the Christ child?

All: We have been inspired by the Magi to give as they give.

Pastor: God's call to us is for justice, beyond generosity.

All: We choose to respond to God's dreams for us with action.

OPENING SONG....."Everlasting God"

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

We welcome you with joy in the common life of our church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

OUR CHILDREN'S MOMENT.....Pastor Dan Furman (he/him)

PASSING THE PEACE

UNISON PRAYER

Arise upon us, Holy God, and let your glory appear among us today. Come in the brightness of your dawn to bring light to all the nations of the earth. Gather us together in such harmony that we may discern your will for us and be led in your ways. Fill us with that radiant joy that allows us to reflect your goodness. Amen.

REFLECTION SONG....."All About Soul"

SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 2:1-12
Abby LaBarge (she/her)

SERMON....."Modern Gifts of the Magi"
Pastor Dan Furman (he/him)

PRAYER SONG....."In Christ Alone"

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

THE OFFERTORY....."Two Thousand Years"
DOXOLOGY
OFFERTORY PRAYER
CLOSING SONG....."How Great Thou Art"
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE....."River of Dreams"

“
“As human beings, we need to know that we are not alone, that we are not crazy or completely out of our minds, that there are other people out there who feel as we do, live as we do, love as we do, who are like us.”
— Billy Joel
”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU!

Our musicians this morning are: Ali Bendert (she/her), Jon Larsen (he/him), Paul DeYoung (he/him), and Jim Thompson (he/him). Our sound techs are Ruth Lee (she/her), Jenna Lee (she/her), and Aron Duby (he/him).

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The celebration of life for Vic Coveny (he/him) will be on Saturday, January 14 at 11AM. Please continue to keep Denise Fisher (she/her) and family in your prayers.

COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a Council meeting after worship today in the Parlor. Feel free to drop by.

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.

Denise Fisher and the family of Vic Coveny, Al Wooton, Craig Roh, Jennifer Arbogast, Dwayne Lisinski, Owen Moredyke, and Wayland UCC.



Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

(repeat)

Our God, You reign forever

Our hope, our strong deliverer

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint, You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

(repeat)

Our God, You reign forever

Our hope, our strong deliverer

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint, You won't grow weary

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Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, '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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "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." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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.' When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, What depths of peace
When fears are stilled, When strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed
be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
Thine, is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord my God,
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder
Thy pow'r throughout
The universe displayed

And when I think
that God his son not sparing,
sent him to die,
I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross,
my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died
to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art
(repeat)

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow
in humble adoration
And there proclaim
My God,
how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art
(repeat 3 more times)