



# HOPE

Hope of all the earth thou art.



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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***Signs-in-the-Moon One***  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 28, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Worship Leaders:**

**Pastor Michael Small**

**Liturgist:** Joanna Aamodt      **Greeter:** Sue Standeven

**Musician:** Mike Kerrigan

**Special Music:** Rick James

**Music Coordinator:** Joanna Aamodt

**Tech:** Gary Jacobson, Aurora Diehl (Video), Esther Covert (Audio)

Gay Jacobson, Chancel and Communion Preparation

***Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!***

**PRELUDE**

Mike Kerrigan

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – Week One: Hope**

**O Come, Advent: Verse 1**

*O come and be the hope in all our lives  
Though chaos and confusion still survive  
We know the path of hate all too well  
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well*

**Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 21:25-36)**

One: When the world seems scary  
When we try to escape and hide  
The Holy invites us to confront fear  
That we may find Hope

*(Light candle of Hope)*

One: Where in the world do we find Hope these days?

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Emanuel! God with us!

**All: Incarnate one! Embodied one!**

One: Crying one! Bleeding one!

**All: At-table one! Loving one!**

One: Hand-in-the-wounds one!

**All: Signs-in-the-moon one!**

One: Hear our plea!

**All: Come! Be here now.**

## A TIME OF CENTERING

Mike Kerrigan

*(During this time of centering, open your hearts to God; be in the present, here and now.)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: O God of wholeness,  
Let us not be put to shame.  
Some of us live with shame everyday  
In our bodies  
In our hearts  
In our self-images, self-esteem, and self-regard.

**All: Have mercy.**

One: Others of us have afflicted our siblings with shame  
By our racism  
By our ableism  
By our sexism, and heterosexism.

**All: Have mercy.**

One: You instruct both sinners and the upright in your ways, Sovereign one.  
Teach us, that some of us may be free,  
and some of us may learn to be free of fault. **Amen.**

*(a moment of silence)*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The God of unlimited compassion  
will strengthen your hearts in holiness  
that you may be blameless and whole before our God and Parent  
at the coming of our brother Jesus with all the saints. **Amen.**

**PASSING THE PEACE** *(You may nod to your neighbors and say "The Peace of Christ be with you" – Response "And also with you.")*

## SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup> "Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand."

<sup>29</sup> And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, or any other tree. <sup>30</sup> You see when they're budding and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> In the same way, when you see all these things happening, know that the reign of God is near. <sup>32</sup> The truth is, this generation will not pass away until all this takes place. <sup>33</sup> The heavens and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Be on your guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence, drunkenness and worldly cares. That day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. <sup>35</sup> It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch. <sup>36</sup> Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever comes, and to stand secure before the Chosen One."

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Rick James

## REFLECTION "Signs"

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## CALL FOR THE OFFERING

One: The earth distresses. Nations are confused.  
The power structures we've grown accustomed to are being shaken.  
And we will not be shaken. We will look up.  
And be children of the God of Mercy.  
Let us give of what we have accordingly.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Lord's Prayer"

Rick James

## DEDICATION

**All: The day of redemption draws near  
For all who labor but do not eat,  
For all who are hated for how they love.  
For all who live with a sense of foreboding,  
wondering what injury will be inflicted on their bodies  
because of their bodies.  
We offer these gifts as a taste of the equitable world to come.  
Amen.**

## PARTING WORDS

One: Emmanuel! God with us!  
Incarnate one! Embodied one!  
Send us forth with confidence to seek you where you dwell  
in the signs-in-the-moon-and-sun-and-stars,  
in the turbulence of our lives,  
and in unexpected Hope. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

Mike Kerrigan

**In our Thoughts and Prayers this week . . .** Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers as we worship this morning and throughout the week: Drew, Kathy, Shaleen, Alison, Lorraine.

**Signs-in-the-Moon One: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent C** was written by Stephanie Dorsey, chaplain resident at York Hospital in York, PA



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All are welcome for Fellowship Time downstairs after the service.  
Refreshments and good stories will be shared.

Christmas Cards available to be purchased in the Fellowship Hall.

## POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR



This Christmas season we have our chancel area adorned with several beautiful Poinsettia plants in Memory and Honor of our loved ones.

- In memory of Clarence Covert,  
by Esther Covert
- In honor of Lorraine Henselin,  
by Esther Covert
- In memory of Janz & Jim Bailey (parents),  
by Bonnie Bailey
- In memory of Bill Koch,  
by Marge
- In memory of Patsy Johnson,  
by Jo Pels
- In memory of Florence Jacobsen,  
by Ryan Pels
- In honor of grandkids,  
by Chris Kolp
- In memory of all loved ones,  
by Tim & Shelli Johnson
- In memory of my family,  
by Sue Standeven
- In honor of our parents, kids & grandkids,  
by Ken & Linda Barber
- In memory of Sharon & in honor of grandkids,  
by Steve Bilben
- In memory of George & Edythe Johnson,  
by Doris Johnson
- In memory of loved ones,  
by Dick & Barb Brownlow
- In Memory of Don Jacobson  
by Gary & Gay Jacobson