



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

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"No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!"

"Gathered"

Reign of Christ

November 20, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:

Pastor Michael Small

Liturgist: Chris Kolp

Greeter: Sonja Huber

Special Music: Murray and Julie Bright

Musician: Leisa Bragg

Music Coordinator: Joanna Aamodt

Tech: Gary Jacobson, Aurora Diehl (Video), Esther Covert (Audio)
Spiritual Life, Chancel and Communion Preparation

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

HYMN "Come, O Thankful People" (vs. 1 and 3) #433

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: We gather to celebrate another day that God has kept us.

One: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.

All: We gather to bear witness to all that God has done for us.

One: Come, behold the works of God!

All: We gather to worship our God who loves and protects us.

A TIME OF CENTERING

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Though many forces have scattered us in various ways, we invite you to bring us together within ourselves and all around us. Prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits, Gathering God, to be present and ready to receive exactly what we need from this time of worship. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: It's so easy for us to get caught up in our human-made divisions. Whether survival instincts or capitalistic drive, we separate ourselves from those who don't look, think, or act like us. We unintentionally allow our differences to stain the beauty of your diversity. Our many different households, family structures, belief systems, and various identities become tools of divisiveness rather than gifts of the divine.

(observe a brief stretch of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Even when we cling to the things that unnecessarily separate us, God unscatters us. No matter who we are or what has brought us to this very moment, God chooses to love us back to wholeness, individually and communally. Hallelujah and amen!

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"In This Very Room"

Murray and Julie Bright

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep in my pasture!" declares YHWH. ² "Thus says YHWH, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who are tending my people: You have scattered my flock and driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds, declares YHWH. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their own pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will also raise up shepherds who will look after them and pasture them. They will no longer be afraid or terrified nor will any be missing, declares YHWH.

⁵ Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH, when I will raise up for the house of David a righteous branch, who will reign as a true ruler and act wisely, and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶ In those days, Judah will be saved,

and Israel will dwell securely.

This is the Name on which they will call:
'YHWH, Our Justice.'

REFLECTION

"Be Gathered"

HYMN

"Jesus Shall Reign" (verses 1, 4, and 5)

#300

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison, using debts)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: Just as God spoke to those in Jeremiah's day, we're faced with an opportunity to participate in God's restorative action in the world. Where others have scattered, God is gathering. Let us be empowered to share our gifts fruitfully and allow God to multiply them for the good of all.

MUSIC

Leisa Bragg

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

All: We're grateful for your invitation to move and give faithfully and abundantly, God. We ask that you would extend your blessings over these gifts that we now offer so that they can be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this congregation. May it be so!

HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation" (all verses)

#425

PARTING WORDS

One: May you experience God's goodness in your coming, going, and staying. May you witness God's activity in your work, play, and world at large. May you feel God's presence in your life, relationships, and self. May you know God's love now and forever more. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Gathered: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday were written by The Rev. Phiwa Langeni is the Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement for the UCC's CARDD, and the Founder and former Director of Salus Center in Lansing, MI.



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**Due to Covid-19 It is recommended that:
We wear masks.
Keep distance from one another.
*If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home!***

Please join us for fellowship following the service in the Fellowship Hall.