



**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!"

"Stay Alert"

First Sunday of Advent – Year A

November 27, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:

Pastor Michael Small

Liturgist: Joanna Aamodt

Greeter: Bev Jorland

Special Music: Ryan Pels

Musician: Mary Thoreson

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 Long Expected Jesus" (all verses)

#122

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:15*)

One: I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!"

**All: We come today with eager expectation.
Our feet are standing within God's gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.
Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

A TIME OF CENTERING

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING RITUAL - HOPE

One: "Come, let us go up to the mountain, to the house of God, so that we can be taught God's way and go on God's path." (*Isaiah 2:3–5 paraphrase*)

Two: What do you hope for in the new world?

All: I hope for a future that is more amazing than anything I could ever imagine.

I hope for the healing of creation.

I hope for good mental health and wellness.

I hope for a world where everyone seeks the good.

One: Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can dare to hope boldly.

All: May it be so.

One: (*First Advent candle is lit.*) Amen.

RESPONSE "O, Come, O Come Emanuel"

Sing: 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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,
God of the hope that the present has brought us,
We call on you in this hour of worship.
We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always with us—Emmanuel, even before the child was born.
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.
Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: We gather together in this season of Advent
anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love
amidst commotion, grief, despair, and uncertainty.

**All: In a world full of hopelessness,
We have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope, dear God.
Consumed by the chaos of the world,
We lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace.
We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods
Felt in days when unborn hope had died;**

**We've forgotten that you promised us hope for a future.
So, stimulate our memory, dear God.
Remind us of that hope you assured us of.
Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.**

(observe a brief stretch of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Let us know that God gives us unmerited hope for a future, peace like a river, joy everlasting, and love. No misstep can separate us from the gifts of God. 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

"What a Wonderful World"

Ryan Pels

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

Isaiah 2:1-5

- ¹ This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
- ² In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple will be established as the most important mountain and raised above all other hills— all nations will stream toward it.
- ³ Many people will come and say: "Come, let us climb YHWH's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths."
Instruction¹ will be given from Zion and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.
- ⁴ God will judge between the nations and render decisions for many countries.² They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;³ one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war.

¹ Literally, Torah, the Law or Teaching, the complete revelation of God's mind and heart.

² "Judge" here means to arbitrate disputes between contending parties.

³ A plowshare is the sharp blade of a plow that cuts the earth and creates a furrow; a pruning hook is a device that looks like a pole with a curved knife on it, used by gardeners to reach and prune the tallest trees and vines.

⁵ O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of YHWH!

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God.

³⁷ “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. ³⁸ In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. ³⁹ They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. ⁴⁰ Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming.

⁴³ “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

REFLECTION

“Be Vigilant!”

HYMN

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (vs. 1 and 3)

593

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: As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ryan Pels

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: For the ways it’ll help us live out God’s mission

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Amen.

HYMN

"Sent Forth By God's Blessing" (vs. 1 and 2)

#76

PARTING WORDS

One: Go forth with the gift of hope
Guiding you toward the path of peace.
Go forth with the gift of joy
Guide you toward the path of love.
Go forth with anticipation,
Trusting that God will bless and keep you,
God's face will shine upon you,
And God's grace will never leave you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Stay Alert: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday were written by Rev. Mia M. McClain is the Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C. She is an ordained UCC minister.



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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.

JOB OPENING AT WALKER FOOD SHELF

The Walker Food Shelf is hiring someone who is willing to work for 20 hours per week as Director of the food shelf. If interested, send a letter/resume to Walker

Area Food Shelf P.O. Box 1101 Walker, MN 56484, email to walkerfoodshelf@gmail.com, or visit during hours of operation.