



**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!”***

***CCOWUCC Update and News For The Week of:  
March 13 2023***

**Members and Friends,**



*Photo Credit: Goran Horvat*

**WORD FOR THE DAY  
- FROM GRATEFUL.ORG**

***“What would it be to awaken to a day devoted to gratitude, a day of thankfulness for what was and yet will be?”  
— Stephen Levine***

***DAILY QUESTION***

***“How do children inspire me to be more grateful?”***

**You may subscribe to the daily “Word for the Day” by going to  
<https://grateful.org>.**

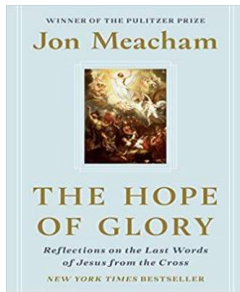
1. Due to the weekend ***Winter Storm Warning*** the ***March 12<sup>th</sup> worship service*** was canceled. Reports of 10-to-16-inch snow accumulations were reported throughout the region. Many of us would not have been able to get out of our driveways until well after the start of the scheduled service. In the future I will learn how to stream from home. ***Thanks for your understanding and support.***
2. **Would you continue to pray for** those who suffer throughout the world. Also keep in your prayers Gay, Sue S. who struggles with breathing issues, Josh, Jo and Bob, Andrew, Alison, Autumn, Sue and Duane, Meryle, Dick and Barb, Gloria and Jerry.
3. ***March is Food Share Month*** – Remember that March is the month when we focus on our support and donations to the Walker Area Food Shelf. May we dig deep and find ways to generously support the very important work of the Food Shelf. ***For more information for ways to give or volunteer please go to <http://walkerfoodshelf.com>.***

4. **SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING for Gary Jacobson will be Saturday, March 18, 2023 – 2:00 pm.** Visitation will begin at 1:00 pm and food and conversation will occur after the service. This service, especially the music, will reflect and express what Gary wanted. There is still a sense of tenderness, loss, and grief at the loss of one who was so loved and so much apart of our lives. And, think ***Twins and Vikings – apparel would be appropriate.***



***The stream will begin about 1:45 pm and may be live-streamed and can be watched at [www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com) or go you can go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpV3pJHuaoz3uchLObKLP-q/live>***

## 5. Lenten Book Conversation with Soup and Sandwich



On Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup> ***All are invited (including those who are reading the book and those who have not)*** to have a bowl of **SOUP** and then a Lenten Book Conversation on renowned historian Jon Meacham's book ***“The Hope and Glory – Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross”***.

***On March 8<sup>th</sup> we will the first, second, and third words of Christ from the Cross.***

The format of the conversations will be ***In-Person at the church Zoom***. The gathering will begin with soup at 6:00 pm. Conversation about the book will begin about 6:45 and will end around 8:00 pm.

“The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross” may be purchased through Amazon as a Kindle or hardback.

You may participate in the conversation via a Zoom Meeting. The link is below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86520761843?pwd=QmROV0xCdW8zSndDQTNDc3hVWHIMdz09>  
Meeting ID: 865 2076 1843, Passcode: 529351.

## 6. All readings for Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

• 1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

**7. Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>** the focus text comes from Exodus. Moses and the people travel through the wilderness. They are thirsty and complaining. Moses asks, “What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me!” God responds!

### **Focus Readings March 12<sup>th</sup> – 1 Samuel 16:1-13 in conversation with John 9:1-41**

#### **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> YHWH said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve for Saul since I rejected him as ruler of Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. For I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have chosen my ruler from among his children.”

<sup>2</sup> But Samuel replied, “How can I go? For if Saul learns about it, I will be murdered.” YHWH replied, “Take a heifer with you: I am sending you to Jesse. Tell him that you came to offer a sacrifice to YHWH, <sup>3</sup> and invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me my selection.”

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what YHWH said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met Samuel. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup> Samuel said, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to YHWH. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his children and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, and Samuel saw Eliab, and said to himself, “Surely, God’s anointed stands here before YHWH.”

<sup>7</sup> But YHWH said to Samuel, “Pay no attention to appearance and height; I have rejected him. YHWH does not see as mortals see; mortals see only appearances, but YHWH sees into the heart.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab to pass before Samuel, who said, “No. YHWH has not chosen this one.”

<sup>9</sup> Next came Shammah, but Samuel said, “Not this one either.”

<sup>10</sup> Seven sons were presented to Samuel by Jesse, who said, “YHWH has not chosen any of these.”

<sup>11</sup> Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse said, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until the lad arrives.”

<sup>12</sup> So they sent for the boy, a ruddy youth with bright eyes, and handsome to behold. YHWH said, “Rise and anoint this one.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed the boy in the presence of his brothers, and from that day forward the Spirit of YHWH came upon David and was with him. Then Samuel set out on his way to Ramah.

### **John 9:1-41**

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, was it this individual’s sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?”

<sup>3</sup> “Neither,” answered Jesus,

“It wasn’t because of anyone’s sin—  
not this person’s, nor the parents’.

Rather, it was to let God’s works shine forth in this person.

<sup>4</sup> We must do the deeds of the One who sent me  
while it is still day—  
for night is coming,  
when no one can work.

<sup>5</sup> While I am in the world,  
I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one’s eyes with the mud. <sup>7</sup> Then Jesus said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”—“Siloam” means “sent.” So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see.

<sup>8</sup> Neighbors and those who had been accustomed to seeing the blind beggar began to ask, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some said yes; others said no—the one who had been healed simply looked like the beggar.

But the individual in question said, “No—it was me.”

<sup>10</sup> The people then asked, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

<sup>11</sup> The answer came, “The one they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash. When I went and washed, I was able to see.”

<sup>12</sup> “Where is Jesus?” they asked. The person replied, “I have no idea.”

<sup>13</sup> They took the one who had been born blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> It had been on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened this one’s eyes. <sup>15</sup> The Pharisees asked how the individual could see. They were told, “Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.”

<sup>16</sup> This prompted some Pharisees to say, “This Jesus cannot be from God, because he doesn’t keep the Sabbath.” Others argued, “But how could a sinner perform signs like these?” They were sharply divided.

<sup>17</sup> Then they addressed the blind person again: “Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about this Jesus?”

“He’s a prophet,” came the reply. <sup>18</sup> The Temple authorities refused to believe that this one had been blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents. <sup>19</sup> “Is this your child?” they asked, “and if so, do you attest that your child was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now your child can see?”

<sup>20</sup> The parents answered, “We know this is our child, blind from birth. <sup>21</sup> But how our child can see now, or who opened those blind eyes, we have no idea. But don’t ask us—our child is old enough to speak without us!” <sup>22</sup> The parents answered this way because they were afraid of the Temple authorities, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the

Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That was why they said, “Our child is of age and should be asked directly.”

<sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the one who had been born blind and said, “Give God the glory instead; we know that this Jesus is a sinner.”

<sup>25</sup> “I don’t know whether he is a sinner or not,” the individual answered. “All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see.”

<sup>26</sup> They persisted, “Just what did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

<sup>27</sup> “I already told you, but you won’t listen to me,” came the answer. “Why do you want to hear it all over again? Don’t tell me you want to become disciples of Jesus too!”

<sup>28</sup> They retorted scornfully, “You’re the one who is Jesus’ disciple. We’re disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this Jesus comes from.”

<sup>30</sup> The other retorted: “Well, this is news! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes! <sup>31</sup> We know that God doesn’t hear sinners, but that if people are devout and obey God’s will, God listens to them. <sup>32</sup> It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. <sup>33</sup> If this one were not from God, he could never have done such a thing!”

<sup>34</sup> “What!” they exclaimed. “You’re steeped in sin from birth, and you’re giving us lectures?” With that they threw the person out.

<sup>35</sup> When Jesus heard of the expulsion, he sought out the healed one and asked, “Do you believe in the Chosen One?”

<sup>36</sup> The other answered, “Who is this One, that I may believe?”

<sup>37</sup> “You’re looking at him,” Jesus replied. “The Chosen One is speaking to you now.”

<sup>38</sup> The healed one said, “Yes, I believe,” and worshiped Jesus.

<sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, “I came into this world to execute justice—to make the sightless see and the seeing blind.”

<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were nearby heard this and said, “You’re not calling us blind, are you?”

<sup>41</sup> To which Jesus replied, “If you were blind, there would be no sin in that. But since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

## 8. Questions to ponder concerning the text for Sunday March 19th 2023

- What is peace?
- How do we bring peace with us?
- What barriers to peace do we encounter and how might we transcend them?
- What spaces can you identify that would benefit from peace carriers?
- How might we witness to the peace of Christ in a proactive manner?

9. **St. Mark’s WELS meets at CCOWUCC** serving as a “Worship Station”. They will continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month between 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

10. **Women’s Fellowship meets** Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm.

11. **Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be a “Virtual Meeting Only”. ***(Please note Council Meetings in March will also be Virtual Only)*** It may be accessed through a Zoom Meeting.

The link for the Council Meeting is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222500074?pwd=M0lmZmQ4VWkrRGgwQjhOMXVlVXJydz09>

Meeting ID: 872 2250 0074, Passcode: 272892

12. **Newsletter Deadline is Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### 13. Birthdays

- 3/13 Bonnie Bailey
- 3/16 Jerry Bixby
- 3/17 Daniel Paul

### 14. Anniversaries

15. **Information for bulletin** needs to be at the church by Tuesday morning  
[commchurchucc@arvig.net](mailto:commchurchucc@arvig.net).

16. **A Reminder!!!** – current bulletins, Churchly Happenings, and **Good News, Good News** - our monthly newsletter, and the **Weekly Update** may be found on the church website –  
[www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com)

17. Addresses – You are invited to be in touch.

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***Prayers and Blessings – Pastor Michael***