



**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!”***

***“Quaking Mountains...Awesome Deeds” | Isaiah 64:1-6***  
**First Sunday of Advent (Hope) – Year B**  
**December 3, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Worship Leaders:**  
**Pastor: Michael Small**  
**Liturgist: Bev Jorland**  
**Special Music: Rick James**  
**Greeter:**  
**Keyboard: Leisa Bragg**  
**Music Coordinator: Leisa Bragg**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**HYMN** **“O How Shall I Receive You”** **#102**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Isaiah 64)*

One: Tear open the heavens and bring forth your presence.  
We watch and we wait for the glory to come.

**All: We gather with hope, remembering your mercy.**  
**Lead us in love; shine from above.**

One: Awaken the earth, enflame and enflesh  
We watch and we wait for what's birthing ahead.

**All: We gather with hope, remembering your justice.**  
**Revive us, restore us; shine from above.**

One: Make us your love wave to broaden your reach  
We watch and we wait for your deeds to appear.

**All: We gather with hope, remembering your handiwork.**  
**Make us, mold us; shine from above.**

## A TIME OF CENTERING

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

### LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE *(Focus: Isaiah 64:1–9)*

One: The word “Advent” comes from an ancient Latin phrase meaning “until the coming.” It is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming of the Christ-child.

One: O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

*(The first candle is lit.)*

One: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

Two: We remember times when we longed for God to be present to us, this congregation, and this world. We remember times when we prayed for God to come, heal, or bring peace. . . *(pause)* . . . thanks be to Creator, Spirit, and Christ.

One: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God’s people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

**All: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

**All:** *(sing to the tune of Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent #345)*

**Shine on us, O God of justice;  
Guide our path through gloom of night;  
Bear within us Wisdom’s glory;  
Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(Inspired by Isaiah 64, Psalm 80)*

One: Let us pray: El Shaddai – God of the mountains who quake at your presence,  
You meet us in our memory of you.

We’d invite you to come down and dwell among us,

Yet we know that you are already and always with us—

Emmanuel, in our collective memory from ages past—

God beside us, God before us, God behind us, and God within us.

Let your face shine so that we might remember you more clearly.

Give us life and we will call on your name

As we worship you in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

### PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE *(Inspired by Hope by Jason Robert Brown)*

**All: We come singing songs of hope, this morning.**

**Though we may not be inspired much right now, we still sing.**

Though it may take us time to sit with our hampered thoughts and sift  
through the growing pile of despair, we still sing.  
In spite of everything ridiculous and sad—  
Though we may be beyond belief, depressed, confused, and mad—  
Some of us got dressed, and  
Some of us made it out of bed or out the door  
And we still sing of hope.  
God, remind us that we have gotten through a lot of things we didn't think  
we could—that you have not left us nor forsaken us—  
That our individual and collective ancestors still sang new songs in the  
valleys of death.  
And so, we still sing, too.  
Embolden us as we try to show the world the we can find hope  
even when it seems impossible to bear.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*(Each person can take this time to surrender to God privately anything weighing heavy on their heart.)*

### **PRAYER FOR RESTORATION**

One: Hope must be there. Fear never wins. The work begins in us. Amen.

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also, with you.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“O Come, O Come Emanuel”**

Rick James

### **SCRIPTURE: Focus Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9**

- <sup>1</sup> Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would shake before you!
- <sup>2</sup> As fire kindles the brushwood and the fire makes water boil,  
make your Name known to your adversaries,  
and let the nations tremble before you!
- <sup>3</sup> When you did awesome things that we could not have expected,  
you came down, and the mountains quaked in your presence!
- <sup>4</sup> From ages past no ear has ever heard,  
no eye has ever seen any God but you  
intervening for those who wait for you!
- <sup>5</sup> Oh, that you would find us doing right,  
that we would be mindful of you in our ways!  
You are angry because we are sinful;  
we sinned for so long—how can we be saved?

6 All of us became unclean and soiled,  
even our good deeds are polluted.  
We have all withered like leaves,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.  
7 No one calls upon your Name,  
there is none who clings to you,  
for you hid your face from us  
and delivered us into the hands of our sins  
8 Yet you are our mother and father, YHWH;  
we are the clay and you are the potter,  
we are all the work of your hands.  
9 Don't let your anger go beyond measure, O God,  
don't remember our sins forever,  
for we are all your people.

**REFLECTION**                    **"Quaking Mountains...Awesome Deeds"**

**HYMN**                                    **"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"**                                    #25

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

One: We look to Jesus who on the night  
in which he was handed over to the empire to be crucified,  
and in the nights and days of hope resurrected,  
drew near in meal and promise.

In gathering with the community  
He took bread, blessed it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
This is my body, given to you.  
Do this in memory of me.  
And in the same way he took cup  
And blessed it giving thanks  
And poured it out for all to drink saying,  
This cup shows the new relationship with God,

#### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

One: God we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We  
bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow  
these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do  
the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed

having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. Bless this bread and cup. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

## **HYMN**

### **"Let Us Break Bread Together"**

#330

## **THE DISTRIBUTION**

*(When the bread is given, hold on to the bread until all have been served. Take and eat together knowing that together, we are a part of the Body of Christ. When the cup is given, drink when you are ready, acknowledging that you are a child of God.)*

## **THE BLESSING**

One: May the presence of Christ, Body, and Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**All:** Thank you most Holy God, for meeting us in this simple meal.  
May your presence within us ripple beyond us, ever expanding,  
until the day when you gather all your saints from the four winds  
to share in your eternal banquet.  
In all our words and actions may your name be praised  
now and forever more. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **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.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Thankful"**

Rick James

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

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

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering with breath hope into 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 carry out God's justice and mercy.

## **HYMN**

**"All Beautiful, the March of Days"**

**#434**

## **PARTING WORDS**

One: Go forth with the gift of hope

Remembering God's deeds

Trusting God's presence

And Becoming God's handiwork.

May God's face shine on us now and forever, Amen

## **POSTLUDE**

***WI-FI – "Guest" Scan QR Code for Internet Access***



***Quakering Mountains...Awesome Deeds: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent Year B*** was written by The Rev. Mia M. McClain, Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C. She is an ordained UCC minister.

