



**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!”***

***“The Rising”***  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**February 11, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Worship Leaders:**  
**Pastor: Michael Small**  
**Liturgist: Deb Farrell**  
**Special Music: Leisa Bragg**  
**Greeter: Chris Kolp**  
**Keyboard: Leisa Bragg**  
**Music Coordinator: Leisa Bragg**

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

## **PRELUDE**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

## **A TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**HYMN**                      **“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”**                      **#182**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting

**All: God speaks to us and summons us.**

One: God gathers us in covenant,

**All: God’s glory shines forth.**

One: Let us worship God!

## **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: Mighty God, you call to us. You call to the heavens and to the earth in covenant. And so we call to you: be present as we worship. Gather us, that we may hear your voice and respond to your ways of righteousness. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

One: God invites us to come to worship as our whole selves. God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

**All: Mighty God, you call to us and summon us to live in covenant and walk in righteousness, yet we forsake your covenant and walk in ways of injustice, ignorance, or disdain. Your beauty shines forth in creation, yet we abuse and tarnish what you have created. May we be willing to do the hard thing: may we see what is happening. May we see what we do. Renew us. Let us receive a double portion of your renewing spirit. Amen.**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

One: God's glory shines forth, and God judges with grace and with mercy. God gives us renewed life and our spirits rise.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Leisa Bragg

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 50:1-6 in conversation with 2 Kings 2:1-12**

**Psalm 50:1-6**

- 1 YHWH our God speaks  
and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun  
to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.
- 3 YHWH comes and won't be silent:  
a devouring fire goes before God,  
while storms rage all around.

4 God summons heaven and earth  
to the trial of God's people:  
5 "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who make their covenant with me by sacrifice!"  
6 The heavens affirm God's justice  
because it is God who is the judge!

## 2 Kings 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> When YHWH was about take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha,

"Stay here. YHWH is sending me to Bethel."

"As YHWH lives, and you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So they departed together for Bethel. <sup>3</sup> The disciples of the prophets in Bethel approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "now be silent."

<sup>4</sup> Then Elijah spoke, "Stay here, Elisha. YHWH is sending me to Jericho." And Elisha replied, "As YHWH lives, and as you live, I will not leave you."

So they went to Jericho.

<sup>5</sup> The disciples of prophets in Jericho approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

"Yes, I know," he said, "now be silent." <sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to the Jordan."

"As YHWH lives and as you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So the two of them walked on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty disciples of prophets stood off at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry land.

<sup>9</sup> Once across, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

Elisha replied, "Let me inherit two-thirds of your spirit," he said.

<sup>10</sup> "You ask a difficult thing,"

Elijah said. "If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>11</sup> As they were walking along and chatting with each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup> Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and cavalry of Israel!" And Elisha saw nothing more. Then he took hold of his clothes and tore them apart.

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<sup>1</sup> Two-thirds, or a double portion, of an inheritance goes to the firstborn of the family. Elisha's inheritance  
*Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (p. 632). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

## REFLECTION

## “To the Mountain”

## HYMN

### “Christ on the Mountain Height” Tune: Fairest Lord Jesus

By Steve Garness Holmes, used with permission from <https://unfoldinglight.net/>

1. Christ on the mountain height, radiant with God’s delight,  
shining with love and mercy bright,  
from fear and death released, we come in thanks to feast  
upon your resurrection’s light.
2. Jesus, Beloved One, bright as Easter’s rising sun,  
called to listen and follow you,  
fearless of pain or loss, help us to bear your cross  
with love’s pure light in all we do.
3. Savior and dearest friend, Law and Prophet’s fullest end,  
strengthened by love, by the Spirit drawn,  
led by your radiant face, help us to live your grace  
and trust in Easter’s promised dawn.

## 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

Leisa Bragg

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: God’s gifts to creation and to us are abundant and ever-new. Entrusted with creation’s care and with care for one another, we share our gifts out of our own abundance.

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**All: Let us pray: Mighty God, you live, and you do not leave us. With these gifts,**

**we do not leave each other, but use them in mutual support. Bless those who receive and benefit from these gifts. May they know your presence with them. With these gifts, our prayers rise up to you. Amen.**

**HYMN**

**"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"**

**#293**

**PARTING WORDS**

One: May you go renewed in spirit,  
May you go, rising to new life,  
May you go with God's mantle of mercy  
And blessing of peace upon you,  
Now and forever.  
Amen!

**POSTLUDE**

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



***The Rising: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday Year B*** was written by The Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD, Director, The Damascus Project, Shared Theological Education Ministry of the Wisconsin & Minnesota Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

