



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

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“Treasures In Heaven”
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost Year C
August 7, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:
Pastor Michael Small
Liturgist: Bev Jorland
Greeter: Doris Johnson
Musician: Leisa Bragg
Special Music: Choir
Music Coordinator: Joanna Aamodt

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

Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

HYMN **"Keep Me Awake, Be Always Ready"** (All verses) **#112**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Creator resides in the midst of creation...calling us to this community.

All: Our world waits for the Holy One, our help and shield.

One: God our Righteousness gazes upon the beloved with delight and concern.

All: Our bodies wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.

One: The Spirit of the Living God greets us with fresh winds and new mercies.

All: Our souls wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.

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: Abundant God, we wait for you with longing, hope, and anticipation. May your kingdom be realized in this community. May your people be your ambassadors. May your love be our propeller in the world and our beacon to direct us home. Fill us with the bread of life and nourish our spirits to be your good news in the world. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Gracious God, you have created a world of abundance and flourishing. Every resource, every gift, every product originates from the generosity of your creation and the creativity you have bestowed upon us. Forgive us for misuse and overuse of your gifts. Reveal our miserly attitudes toward the plentiful trove of resources you have entrusted to our care. Sow generosity in us, reveal abundance to us, and enable flourishing through us. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Every good and perfect gift comes from above. Grace is such a gift; mercy is another. Transformation and new life descend freely from the Most High to all who would receive it. Receive the assurance of God's grace and compassion as precious treasure made available to all. 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 "Carry Me Home (Deep River/Swing Low)"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:21-40

²¹ "This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves, but are not rich in God."

²² Then he said to the disciples, "That's why I tell you, don't worry about your life and what you are to eat. Don't worry about your body and what you are to wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. ²⁴ Take a lesson from the ravens. They don't sow or reap. They have neither a food cellar nor a barn, yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable are you than birds? ²⁵ Can any of you, for all your worrying, add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why worry about all the rest?"

²⁷ "Notice how the flowers grow. They neither labor nor weave, yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was robed like one of these! ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass in the field—which is here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow—how much more will God look after you! You have so little faith!

³² "Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Abba to give you the kingdom.

³³ "Sell what you own and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that don't wear out—treasures that won't fail you, in heaven that thieves can't steal and moths can't destroy. ³⁴ For wherever your treasure is, that's where your heart will be. ³⁵ "Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit. ³⁶ Be like the household staff awaiting the owner's return from a wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you'll open the door without delay. ³⁷ It will go well with those staff members whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the

owner will put on an apron, seat them at table and proceed to wait on them. ³⁸ Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared, it will go well with them.

³⁹ “Understand this: no homeowner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! ⁴⁰ So be on guard—the Promised One will come when least expected.”

REFLECTION “Treasure Leading to Generosity”

SPECIAL MUSIC “His Eye is on the Sparrow” Mahalia Jackson

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart feel lonely
And long for Heavenly home?

When Jesus is my portion
My constant friend is He
You know his eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me

His eyes is on the sparrow
And I know God is watching me
I sing because my soul is happy
And I sing because I'm free
For His eye it is on the sparrow
And I know He's watching me

HOLY COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

One: Holy God, descend your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grape, whether on this table or in the homes of your people, that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us so that we might be reflections of your likeness in a hurting world so that others might know the blessings of living in communion with you and one another. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together” (vss. 1 & 3) #330

BREAKING AND POURING

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE BLESSING

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: 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

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: Luke 12:34 informs us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Let our hearts direct the use of our resources, our time, and our talents. May our generosity meet God's abundance in attending to the needs and hopes of our community.

SPECIAL MUSIC "A Clare Benediction"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

All: Generous One, receive the gifts we bring as we return a portion of your treasure to the use of your kingdom. May your will be manifested and your creation restored through sharing these offerings. Amen.

HYMN "Faith of the Martyrs" (vss. 1 and 3) #381

PARTING WORDS

One: Live in the abundance of God's treasure, spreading the love and peace of Christ in the world to the glory of God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

In our Thoughts and Prayers this week . . . Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers as we worship this morning and throughout the week: family and friends of Gene, Kathy, Shaleen, Drew, Lorraine, Joanne and her son Andrew, Alison.

Treasures in Heaven: Service Prayers for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.



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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.