



**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!"***

***"No Balm in Gilead"***

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost Year C**

**September 18, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Worship Leaders:**

**Pastor Michael Small**

**Liturgist: Bev Jorland**

**Greeter: Marge Koch**

**Special Music: Ryan and Jo Pels**

**Musician: Leisa Bragg**

**Music Coordinator: Joanna Aamodt**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**HYMN**                      **"There is a Balm in Gilead"** (all verses)                      #553

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Divine Parent, you feel what we feel.

**All: Our joys and our pains are yours too.**

One: Divine Healer, you delight in our wholeness.

**All: You are the balm for our heavy-laden hearts and souls.**

One: Giver of life, you are able to renew us

**All: We open ourselves to you, have your way within us.**

**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: Divine Nurturer, we are thankful that we can come to you any time. You have made it possible for us to come, as we are however, we are. We

rejoice in knowing that you walk with us whether the road is rough or smooth. You are steadfast. Help us to nurture our relationship with you, ourselves, and each other so that we may be a balm when none can be found. Amen.

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

**All: Source of Wholeness, we confess that sometimes our goals don't align with yours, and we get lost. At times, we have pursued power, knowledge, and wealth instead of you, who are the source of all. We know that you are the balm we need, and we turn ourselves towards you. You are steadfast in your love and justice. Help us to be the same, help us to be a balm to others as you are to us. Amen.**

*(observe a brief stretch of silence)*

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

One: The Divine one is steadfast in love, justice, and righteousness. Know that we are called and empowered to do the same. In a chaotic world, we can know peace, and in a chaotic world, we can be at peace. May God's grace be a balm for us, and may we be a balm to and for others. 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**

Ryan and Jo Pels

## **SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1**

- <sup>18</sup> Joy abandons me. There is no cure for my grief.  
My heart is sick.
- <sup>19</sup> Hear the cry of distress of my people  
from a distant land:  
"Is YHWH not in Zion?  
Is its ruler not there anymore?"  
And YHWH replies,  
"Why do they provoke me  
with their carved images,  
with their useless foreign gods?"
- <sup>20</sup> The harvest is past, summer is ended  
and we are not saved.
- <sup>21</sup> I am devastated, for my people are devastated.  
I mourn. Terror grips me.
- <sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then has the health of my people

not been attended to?

<sup>9:1</sup> Oh, that my head were a spring of water  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of my people!

## REFLECTION

**“A Balm in Gilead?”**

## HYMN

**“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”** (all verses)

#476

## 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: God’s love is steadfast and abundant. We are blessed to give from hearts of love that others might experience abundance. May the gifts we bring be used to supply whatever balm is needed, wherever it is needed. May these resources be used to facilitate the wholeness of all. Amen.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Ryan and Jo Pels

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**All: God’s love is steadfast and abundant. We are blessed to give from hearts of love that others might experience abundance. May the gifts we bring be used to supply whatever balm is needed, wherever it is needed. May these resources be used to facilitate the wholeness of all. Amen.**

## HYMN

**“You Servants of God”** (vss. 1 and 4)

#305

## PARTING WORDS

One: As you enter into everyday life again, let the balm you received be the that you gladly share with others. Go forth in the wholeness of God’s steadfast love. 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: Darlene, the family of Lorraine, Kathy, Shaleen, Drew, Joanne and her son Andrew, Alison.

***No Balm in Gilead: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*** were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, 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.**