



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

P.O. Box 267, Walker, MN 56484 (218) 547-1093

[www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com) [commchurchucc@gmail.com](mailto:commchurchucc@gmail.com)

***“No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!”***

***“Made Equal”***

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A**

**September 24, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Worship Leaders:**

**Pastor: Michael Small**

**Guest Preacher: Sue Grage**

**Liturgist: Sonja Huber**

**Special Music: Joanne Pels**

**Greeter: Gay Jacobson**

**Musician: Leisa Bragg**

**Music Coordinator: Leisa Bragg**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**HYMN**

**“This is the Day”**

**#84**

**Call to Worship** (*Inspired by Psalm 145:1-8*)

**One:** Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**All:** **Great is our God and greatly to be praised.**

**One:** Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**All:** **This generation will tell the next generation so they may tell the next generation of the Holy One’s magnificent and mighty acts.**

**One:** Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**All:** **We declare the abundant goodness, gracious righteousness, and holy love of our God. Praise the Holy One!**

**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: Might God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.

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

**All: God of abundance, forgive us for embracing a worldview that capitalizes on scarcity. Help us to know that you have given us enough for our journey. You have created us wonderfully and uniquely. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with our neighbor when we are called to love them. Help us to embrace how you have made us as individuals who may bring our singular gifts to our common life. Amen.**

### **PRAYER FOR RESTORATION**

One: Beloved, you are enough. God loves you as you are for who you are. We, collectively, have enough and may share in a common life where all may flourish and live in harmony as our Creator intended and designed. You are forgiven and free to embrace the life that is uniquely yours.

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“We Are One in the Spirit”**

Jo Pels

### **SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16**

<sup>1</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> “About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, <sup>4</sup> and said to them, ‘You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ <sup>5</sup> At that they left.

“Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. <sup>6</sup> Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’

<sup>7</sup> “ ‘No one has hired us,’ they replied. “The owner said, ‘You go to my vineyard, too.’

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day’s pay, <sup>10</sup> and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage.

<sup>11</sup> “Thereupon they complained to the owner, <sup>12</sup> ‘This last group did only an hour’s work, but you’ve put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.’

<sup>13</sup> “ ‘My friends,’ said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, ‘I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn’t you? <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you.

<sup>15</sup> I’m free to do as I please with my money, aren’t I? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup> “Thus the last will be first and the first will be last.”

## **REFLECTION**

Sue Grage

## **HYMN**

**“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”**

#539

## **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**

**“Put Your Hand in the Hand”**

Jo Pels

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

One: Philippians 1:2 encourages us to “Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.” May we live generous lives that reflect the fullness of the gospel, unity of the spirit, and faith in our God and God’s church.

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

**All: Great God, please receive our gifts for the glory of your name and the blessing of your people. May we be dedicated stewards of your abundance and use these gifts for the benefit of your kingdom. Amen.**

## **HYMN**

**"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"**

#77

## **PARTING WORDS**

One: May the love of God assure you, the hope of God guide you, and the peace of God sustain you as you go receiving and extending God's grace in the world.

## POSTLUDE

**Made Equal: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost** were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.



***Due to Covid-19 masks are appropriate.***

***If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home.***

***Please join us For Fellowship following worship in the Fellowship Hall.***



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