



**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!”

“Peace Be With You”
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:
Pastor: Michael Small
Liturgist: Gay Jacobson
Special Music: Joanne Pels
Greeter: Doris Johnson
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 **“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”** #252

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

All: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Peace be with you.”

One: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

All: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Here are the marks on my body.”

One: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

All: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ’s peace is with us. We don’t need to be afraid.

One: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

All: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

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: Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: God, we confess that we too might be like Thomas. As we are overwhelmed by the world's grief, it's natural for us to be cynical. It's hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find. But when we stop believing in hope, we also stop believing liberation can be possible. When we stop working to tear down injustice and discrimination, we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you. Forgive our unbelief, calm our fears, and help us be instruments of your peace. 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: Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe. Because we believe, we can also be empowered to do the work of justice. Yes, the world is heavy. No, the work will never be done. But because we know Christ's peace, we can share it with others.

All: We believe in the grace and peace of Christ. We are forgiven. Alleluia!

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Joanne Pels

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰ Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus,²¹ who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you."

²² After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven.
If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

²⁴ It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came.²⁵ The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!"

Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

²⁶ On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!"²⁸ Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus then said,
"You've become a believer
because you saw me.
Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples.³¹ But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

REFLECTION

"What Kind of Peace?"

HYMN

"Peace I Leave with you, My Friends"

#249

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

"Here O My Lord, I See You Face to Face"

#336

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: Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have called us to return always to the still, life-giving center where you have fed and healed us. Send us into the world now, to listen for your guiding and to follow your Word, to take your good news to others near and far, in words and in deeds, and so to be a part of your transformation of the world, in the name of Christ and the power of your Holy Spirit. 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

Joanne Pels

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: Jesus has empowered us with the Holy Spirit. We have life because of his presence with us. Let us join in God's abundance, giving what we can to offer peace to a hurting world.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

All: God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

HYMN

"My Shepherd is the Living God"

#247

PARTING WORDS

One: Beloved, go in peace, and go be peace! Receive the Holy Spirit deep in your being, and share your new life in Christ with the world! Amen!

POSTLUDE

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



Peace Be With You: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter were written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC's Disabilities Ministries Board to provide

