



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!”

“Chosen and Appointed”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Gay Jacobson

Special Music:

Greeter: Joanne Detwiler

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

“Blessed Assurance”

#473

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ gives us a new commandment:

All: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

One: When we love one another as Christ has loved us, we will live lives full of joy.

All: We will live with God’s love deep in our hearts.

One: Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

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: Loving God, we remember your Child’s commandment to love one another as he

has loved us. May this time of prayer and reflection remind us of the love we have in Jesus. As we leave this sacred space, may we be filled with joy as we share his love with others. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Jesus, our sibling, and friend, we confess that we do not always love one another. Our divisions and disagreements so often prevent us from knowing the joy of meaningful relationships. Even as we seek to follow your example, we forget that we are chosen and appointed by you to bring hope to a weary world. Help us renew our focus and live by your will...that we may follow you with joy in our hearts. 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: Jesus no longer calls us servants, but friends. Each relationship is a new opportunity to abide in Christ's love, and a reminder that we can start again.

All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE: John 15:9-17

- ⁹ As my Abba has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Live on in my love.
- ¹⁰ And you will live on in my love
if you keep my commandments,
just as I live on in Abba God's love
and have kept God's commandments.
- ¹¹ I tell you all this that my joy may be yours,
and your joy may be complete.
- ¹² This is my commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
- ¹³ There is no greater love
than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

- 14 And you are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
- 15 I no longer speak of you as subordinates,
because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business.
Instead I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learned from Abba God.
- 16 It was not you who chose me;
it was I who chose you
to go forth and bear fruit.
Your fruit must endure,
so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name
God will give you.
- 17 This command I give you:
that you love one another.

REFLECTION

"If? And Chosen!"

HYMN

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#252

EASTER SEASON COMMUNION – John 21:1-14

INVITATION

One: Dearest friends, at this table the Spirit welcomes us all.
Here she gives special honor to the hungry and the poor.
Here she renews creation with healing and peace.
Here she pledges a graceful world to come, a world of joy and dignity for all.
And here she lets us taste it, the new way of being together:
bearing each other's burdens, sharing each other's joys, practicing pardon,
eating in peace, justice in all we say and do.
So come to the Spirit's table.
Receive new life.
It is for you, for me, for everyone.

PRAISE

One: Let us pray: From the first day to the last, O God, you are generous and kind,
filling the world with mercy's bread, pouring the cup of mercy's joy.

**All: You give us gifts too many to count: our hearts overflow when we
remember you. Even in death, life abounds.**

One: And so we praise you, singing your glory with every creature you made:

SING

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;

#781

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore.

REMEMBERING JESUS

One: And now, O God, with grateful hearts, we remember Jesus.
When all seems lost, when we are stuck in shame,
when nothing we try resurrects our fading hope,
Jesus comes to us; Jesus brings the morning's light.
Jesus tells us where to cast our nets.
The catch is abundant; our nets are full.
Jesus knows we are always hungry; Jesus feeds us hope.
On the lakeshore Jesus lights the breakfast fire, grills fish for us, and bread.
In the mist of morning, guilt is gone, shame fades away.
We eat together, speaking only of love.
It is always this way with Jesus— food and pardon, mercy and life.

Even on that night when we betrayed him,
Jesus gave us bread and wine and
Jesus told us to remember him and all his mercies
whenever we gather to eat.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

One: Then come, Holy Spirit, bless this bread and cup,
signs of the Living One truly present here in love.
For all who receive these gifts in faith,
make them food and drink of lasting life,
until the new age of justice comes
and every creature beholds it.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

"Come and Gather in this Special Place"

#335

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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: Jesus has appointed us to bear fruit that will last. Fruit that will bring love and justice. Joy and hope. Bring what you can; together, the gifts we offer can transform lives.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

All: Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.

HYMN

"Called as Partner's in Christ's Service"

#495

PARTING WORDS

One: Friends of God, as you leave this place, remember that God has chosen you to share the love you've found with a world of need. Go bear fruit that will last. Let your joyful hearts be signs of hope in these anxious times. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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



Chosen and Appointed: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B was 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 music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice.

