



**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!”

“For Mercy”

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Joanna Aamodt

Special Music: Hand Bell Choir

Greeter:

Keyboard: Leisa Bragg

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

+HYMN

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

#18

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 51*)

One: The Holy One is just and merciful, righteous and compassionate, wise and near.

All: O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom.

Enliven joy and gladness within our hearts.

One: We long for your presence and gather before you in gratitude and awe of your steadfast love.

All: O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom.

Enliven joy and gladness within our hearts.

One: Create just, righteous, and loving hearts within us. Renew our spirits as we declare your praise and seek you in prayer.

All: O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom.

Enliven joy and gladness within our hearts.

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: Gracious God, we give thanks for your presence among us. In the chaos of our lives, you provide calm, healing, and sanctuary. Inspire us to be transformed as you immerse us in your everlasting love and relentless presence. Your Spirit fills the atmosphere as we gather in your name from pew to park and from sanctuary to sofa. Open our receptivity to your word and enflame our imagination of and participation in your kingdom on earth. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Redeemer, forgive us. We confess our complicity with the systems of this world that hurt and harm your children and your creation. We confess our complacency with the status quo, incrementalism when urgency is required, and the claim that nothing ever changes. We confess our comfort holds more influence over us than your command that we love our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us and release us from the bonds of guilt and shame so that we can be free to change and grow, free to receive your power and new life, and free to be your agents of transformation in the world. Holy One, in your mercy, hear our plea. 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: Redeemed, the Sovereign God has given you power and freedom to live as full citizens of the kingdom of God. Receive the grace to do your best for today trusting that the Spirit will guide you to your best for tomorrow. The past has no power to keep you from new life in the present and abundant life in the future. Claim your redemption and, in gratitude, the new life gifted to you in Christ.

+PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hand Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a in conversation with Psalm 51:1-12

²⁶ When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to the palace, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

But David's actions displeased YHWH.

^{12:1} YHWH sent Nathan to David. Nathan went to David, and said, "Let me present you with a case for your judgment: There were two people in a certain town; one was rich and the other was poor. ² The rich person had very large herds of cattle and sheep, ³ but the poor person had only one recently-purchased little ewe lamb. The poor person raised it, and it grew with the family, adults and children alike. They shared their food with it; it drank from its own cup, and even slept with family. It was like another child to the family.

⁴ "Now a traveler came to the rich person, who went about giving hospitality to the traveler. But rather than taking one of his own livestock to prepare a meal for the traveler, the rich person took the little ewe lamb from the poor family to serve to the traveler."

⁵ When David heard the story, he became livid, and burst out, "As YHWH lives, the rich person who did this must die! ⁶ The rich person must pay for the lamb four times over! To do such a thing is evil!"

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You are that corrupt person! This is what YHWH of Israel, says: 'I anointed you ruler over Israel. And I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave you your palace, along with your many wives in your arms. I gave you the tribes of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have added other favors as well. ⁹ Why did you despise the word of YHWH by doing what you did, which is evil in YHWH's eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife as your own. You murdered Uriah with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never be far from your house; for you showed contempt of me and took Bathsheba to be your own.'

¹¹ "This is what YHWH says, 'I will stir up evil for you out of your own house. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor; and your neighbor will lie with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² You did it secretly, but I will do it in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against YHWH."

Psalm 51:1-11 (*GA psalm of David written when the prophet Nathan came to him after David had relations with Bathsheba.*)

¹ O God, have mercy on me!

Because of your love and your great compassion, wipe away my faults;

² wash me clean of my guilt;
purify me of my sin.

³ For I am aware of my faults,
and have my sin constantly in mind.

⁴ I sinned against you alone,
and did what is evil in your sight.

You are just when you pass sentence on me,
blameless when you give judgment.

- ⁵ I was born in sin,
conceived in sin—
⁶ yet you want truth to live in my innermost being.
Teach me your wisdom!
⁷ Purify me with hyssop until I am clean;
wash me until I am purer than new-fallen snow.
⁸ Instill some joy and gladness into me;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice again.
⁹ Turn your face from my sins,
and wipe out all my guilt.
¹⁰ O God, create a clean heart in me,
put into me a new and steadfast spirit;
¹¹ do not banish me from your presence,
do not deprive me of your holy Spirit!

REFLECTION

“Mercy Now”

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

#547

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

One: In the United Church of Christ, we practice an open communion, which means all are welcomed to this table...God's table. You don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the sharing of the bread and drink of the vine. Come from the east and the west, the north and south to gather around this table.

REMEMBERING

One: We remember, the night before Jesus would be betrayed and crucified, that he sat among his friends and took bread, blessed, and broke it, and said "Take and eat for this is my body given for you. As often as you do it do it in remembrance of me".

After the supper had ended, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

HYMN

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

#342

DISTRIBUTION

One: My friends, whenever we share this bread and cup, we remember the

compassion and love Jesus taught and the call to follow Christ in all we do.

One: Bread that is broken – take and eat that you may be made whole.
(As the bread is served, hold on to the bread until all have been served – we eat together affirming that we are a part of the beloved community, the Body of Christ)

One: The cup of salvation – receive this cup of the new covenant knowing you are forgiven and set free.
(As the cup is served, drink when you are ready – though we are one in Christ we drink as we acknowledge our personal relationship with God/Christ/Spirit)

One: Let us pray.

All: Holy Creator, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring love and justice to the world. May this bread and drink nourish us as they are the symbol of Christ's essence in all of us. In Jesus name we pray. 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

Hand Bell Choir

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: The gifts of God bless us, and the invitation of God is to share those blessings with generosity, gratitude, trust, and love. Let us give of our time, talent, and treasure from the abundance of God's provision to us.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

DOXOLOGY: *(as collection plates come forward)*

Tune #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: Generous God, thank you for these gifts and the privilege of giving. Increase our collective resources that we might serve your kingdom and bring honor to your name. Amen.

+HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

#472

PARTING WORDS

One: Go, in the assurance that you are redeemed.

Go, with compassion, courage, and conviction that a beloved community is possible and waits on your participation.

Go, in peace and hope, knowing that God is with us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“+” (for those who are able, please stand)

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



For Mercy: Service Prayers for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.