



**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!”

“Abundance and Poverty”
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 10, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:
Pastor: Michael Small
Liturgist: Deb Farrell
Special Music: Jo and Ryan Pels
Greeter: TBA
Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

† **HYMN** **“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”** (vss. 1, 3, 4) #565

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 146*)

One: From generation to generation, the Holy One has loved justice and righteousness, lifted the broken and bowed, and opened possibilities for the dejected.

All: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Trust the Holy One!

One: When the power brokers, corrupt systems, and tools of violence have failed us, the Holy One has remained faithful to abiding love and abundant liberation.

All: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Follow the Holy One!

One: Praise the Holy One with song and dance, in spirit and in truth, for God’s glory

† For those who are able, please stand.

and for life abundantly!

All: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. 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: Living God, we offer you praise in your presence. We give you thanks for life in this community. Some come seeking. Others come assured. Some have questions. Others simply want company. Whatever our reasons for gathering, may they all lead us to an encounter with you, your grace, and your way. Infuse us with your power, forged in love, so that we might be encouraged and respond as agents of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: God of mercy and possibilities, forgive us for clinging to the measures of success and security in our world rather than trusting in the abundance of your creation. Help us to recognize the kingdom coming and our role as participants in your realm. Liberate us from the bonds of consumerism, scarcity, and self-centeredness, and make us vessels of your love come alive in the world. 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, you are inheritors of the kingdom of God. You receive riches beyond compare. The Holy One journeys with you and enables you to grow in grace, peace, and contentment.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jo and Ryan Pels

Focus Scripture: Mark 12:38-44 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2209). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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³⁸ In his teaching, Jesus said, “Beware of the religious scholars who like to walk about in long robes, be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, ³⁹ and take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ These are the ones who swallow the property of widows and offer lengthy prayers for the sake of appearance. They will be judged all the more severely.”

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the collection box and watched the people putting money in it, and many of the rich put in a great deal. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny.

⁴³ Then Jesus called out to the disciples and said to them, “The truth is, this woman has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they have put in money from their surplus, but she has put in everything she possessed from the little she had—all she had to live on.”

REFLECTION “Abundance and Poverty – Side By Side”

HYMN “Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

#448

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: In the Creator, there is no lack of any good thing. When we consider our resources as part of God’s abundance, we nurture generosity within us. Let us give to support the mutual needs of our faith community, the expansion of ministry, and the benefit of the world that God so loves.

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.**

† For those who are able, please stand.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: God of generosity and giver of gifts, receive our offerings as a reflection of our gratitude and trust in your sovereignty. Like the widow and Elijah, may the jars that sustain us never empty and never fail. May we witness the miracle of your provision through our generosity and for your glory. Amen..

† HYMN

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

#563

PARTING WORDS

One: When the needs of the world compel you,
May the blessings of God assure you,
May the abundance of God inspire you, and
May the goodness of God embolden you
To resist the systems of scarcity and
To embrace a life of generosity, compassion, and mutuality
In the presence of Creator's abundance. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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



Abundance and Poverty: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fifth 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.

