



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

P.O. Box 267, Walker, MN 56484 (218) 547-1093
www.uccwalker.com commchurchucc@gmail.com

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

***“Abolish to Establish”
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.***

**Worship Leaders:
Pastor: Michael Small
Liturgist: Deb Farrell
Special Music: Bell Choir
Greeter: Steve Bilben
Keyboard: Julie Bright**

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

† HYMN “My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise” [*Tune: Ellecombe #104*] #106

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Love deeply, creating the wells of kinship,

All: For in the Body of Christ we belong.

One: Love boldly, like the spirited colors of a rainbow,

All: For in the Body of Christ we find peace.

One: Love joyfully, like the blissful songs in the wind,

All: For in the Body of Christ we claim our connections.

A TIME OF CENTERING

(During this time of centering, open your hearts to God; be in the present, here and now.)

4th WEEK OF ADVENT: CANDLE OF LOVE

† For those who are able, please stand.

One: Light of Love, we arrive at this final week of Advent with our hearts ready to welcome in the dawn of Christmas time.

All: Ready for the glory of God's love to shine around us, within us, and in between us.

One: And yet, we also know how that love is always here. So today, we call upon the power of ritual to name this love as a gift.

All: To receive this love as a gift, to give this love as a gift.

One: To celebrate the beauty and life-saving gift of friendship, of partnerships, of relationships

All: To see through these candles, how one illuminates the others, even those that wait to be lit.

One: So let us now feel the warmth of a whole circle of light.

All: May we honor love's presence in our relationships, as we light the way for the Holy Family's journey in our lives today. Amen.

(Light Candle of Love)

Sing Verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#116

O come, Key of David come, and open wide your heavenly home;
Make safe the path to endless day, to hell's destruction close the way.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Holy Tapestry of Bliss,

The patches of memories are stitched together as we tell our stories with you, Loving God. We cherish the individual pieces of our diverse stories and the beauty of narratives sewed together. We honor the ways these Holy Threads have connected us. May the creation from our connections be like a quilt to our souls, keeping us warm in this season of reflection. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Divine Light and Love,

We have been weighed down by the heaviness of the season, the sorrows carried from the past, and the expectations of the present and future. We hide in shadows instead of the light. We embrace individualism instead of basking in the joy of community love. Create a new path in our hearts so that we can find levity and grace. Reconnect us with the Body of Christ instead of the distressing comfort of spiritual solitude. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

(Each person can take this time to surrender to God privately anything weighing heavy on their heart.)

† For those who are able, please stand.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: The grace of God infinitely streams into our lives, drawing us from the shadows into the light, and reconnecting us again with our neighbors. May the mercy of our Creator help us rediscover the Spirit of Joy in our midst.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Focus Scripture: Hebrews 10:5-10 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2517-2518). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁵ And this is what Jesus said, on coming into the world:

“You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation
prepared a body for me.

⁶ In burnt offerings or sacrifices for sin
you took no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, just as it was written of me
in the scroll of the book,

‘God, here I am!

I have come to do your will.’ ”

⁸ In saying that God doesn’t want burnt offerings and sacrifices—which are offered according to the Law—⁹ and then saying, “I have come to do your will,” Jesus abolishes the first Covenant in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ By God’s will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55) *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2220-2221). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

³⁹ Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? ⁴⁴ The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!”

† For those who are able, please stand.

46 Mary said:
47 “My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
48 and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.
49 For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant,
50 and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.
51 For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
52 and holy is your Name.
53 Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.
54 You have shown strength with your arm;
55 you have scattered the proud in their conceit;
56 you have deposed the mighty from their thrones
57 and raised the lowly to high places.
58 You have filled the hungry with good things,
59 while you have sent the rich away empty.
60 You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,
61 mindful of your mercy—
62 the promise you made to our ancestors—to Sarah and Abraham and their
63 descendants forever.”

REFLECTION

“Grace Filled Hospitality”

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#133

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: We reconnect in this space and time to seek God’s call for our lives and our congregations. As part of our spiritual journeys, we share our treasures, time, and talents, bringing God’s light into our world. We do not give to impress God or

† For those who are able, please stand.

share offerings because of our shame. Instead, we bring our offerings to celebrate the Body of Christ.

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: God of All Joy, Holy Hope,

We delight in living in your ways as we create your Realm here on earth. These offerings of talents, treasures, and time are not to appease you but to collaborate with you. As co-creators, we seek your intentions and celebrate your love for us and our neighbors. Amen.

† HYMN

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

#122

PARTING WORDS

One: As we seek the ways of God and our Creator’s intentions for our lives,

May the Spirit of God enliven us as we love boldly,

May the Spirit of God strengthen us as we create paths of peace.

May the Spirit of God awaken us as we love generously and widely.

A season of birth is imminent, for God’s love is with us as we seek our renewal of life.

POSTLUDE

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



Abolish to Establish: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois.

Advent Candle Ritual from The Pension Boards United Church of Christ, Inc. – ***The Christmas Fund***

