



**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!”

***“Praying With Joy”
Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.***

**Worship Leaders:
Pastor: Michael Small
Liturgist: Bev Jorland
Special Music: Tim and Shelli Johnson
Greeter:
Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb**

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

#110

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Underneath life’s expanding shadows,

All: We call out “Pave the way for our God!”

One: On the dusty roads of life’s wilderness

All: We call out “Pave the way for our God!”

One: As we near the top of mountains, rejoicing under the sunlight,

All: We call out “Pave the way for our God!”

A TIME OF CENTERING

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

2nd WEEK OF ADVENT: CANDLE OF PEACE

One: Spirit of Light, Holy Prism of Color, we call upon your rays of peace to shine

† For those who are able, please stand.

down on us. We remember how peace knew the flood, the fear, and loss that came before the rainbow, before the olive branch was carried over troubled waters,

All: before the soft feathers of a dove meant that harm would cease, for now.

One: Thus, peace understands why we long for it so—why we, dare we say, need it to survive.

All: So, let us bless this wreath with such sought-after branches,

One: branches that hold fast to life, that mean a today and tomorrow,

All: branches that mean there is more than enough, a bounty in God's creation for all.

One: O Prism of Peace, our world is ever in need of your rainbow light. Two by two, day by day, night by night, guide us to cultivate a more just way in our daily lives. Grant that we may light this candle with the color of peace,

All: with the color of us, a full spectrum that leaves no one out. Amen.

(Light Candle of Peace)

Sing verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#116

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Holy Fountain of Compassion,

Deep in the heart of this journey, we search for peace-filled moments of contemplation. We crave the joy that is found in the stillness of prayer. As we share this time with you, may we experience your beloved joy, knowing that our petitions bring us closer to you and our neighbors. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: God of Blissful Serenity,

As you move about your Realm on Earth, you desire our prayers to come alive. Knowing the hopes of our hearts, you call us to create action that will help our neighbors. Yet, there are times we continue to pray in mind only, never fulfilling our calling to care for our neighbors. What we forget is that joy abounds when we can transform a prayer from thoughts to concrete actions, blessing our siblings across our 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

† For those who are able, please stand.

One: When we bring alive our prayers, we experience Christ in our midst. May we embrace the grace of God and initiate opportunities to care for God's children with open hearts.

† **PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Tim and Shelli Johnson

Focus Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2473). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

³ I thank my God every time I think of you. ⁴ In every prayer I utter, as I plead on your behalf, I rejoice ⁵ at the way you have all continually helped promote the Good News from the very first day. ⁶ And I am sure of this much: that God, who has begun the good work in you, will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It's only right that I should entertain such expectations about you, since I hold all of you dear—you who are all partakers of grace with me, even when I lie in prison or am summoned to defend the solid ground on which the Good News rests.

⁸ God knows how much I long for each of you with all the affection of Christ Jesus! ⁹ My prayer is that your love may abound more and more, both in understanding and in wealth of experience, ¹⁰ so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. ¹¹ It's my wish that you be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2225). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹ In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene. ² In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert. ³ John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

“A herald's voice in the desert, crying,
'Make ready the way of our God;
clear a straight path.

⁵ Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.
The twisted paths will be made straight,

† For those who are able, please stand.

One: May the Spirit of Light,
The Christ of Love,
And the God of Joy
Infuse our souls with peace and a song of thanksgiving
As we seek the presence of God in our world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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



Praying With Joy: Service Prayers for the Second 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***

