



**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!”

“Down With Them”

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Chris Kolp

Special Music: EmBELLishment

Greeter: Gay Jacobson

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

"We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

#179

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 1*)

One: Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One. Meditate on God's word day and night.

All: Our Sovereign God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

One: Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One. Plant yourself like a tree and yield good fruit in due season.

All: Our Sovereign God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

One: Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One. Prosper in all that you do according to kindom measures.

All: Our Sovereign God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

† For those who are able, please stand.

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: Righteous God, you create us for community, and you commune with us. May we seek your presence anew this day and in the time to come. Help us to recognize you in the sound and feel of our own breath and in the movement or noise of those around us. Embolden us to faith that surpasses understanding and ministry that reflects radical trust in you and the path of abundance, compassion, and connection. Let our worship in song and prayer be a foreshadowing of our worship in action and witness. Transform us from despair to hope, complacency to courage, and indifference to love in your name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, O God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Forgive us and free us from guilt and shame so that we might embrace a life of accountability and transformation for the glory of God and for the hope of humanity. 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: Good creation of God, the Holy One has begun a good work in you and will see it through to completion. You have power to transform and grace to enter the newness of life. God is near and comes down with us. Receive God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace as the gift that has been given. It is available, yours, and enough.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

EmBellishment (Hand Bell Choir)

Focus Scripture: Luke 6:17-26 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2233). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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¹⁷ Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon—¹⁸ people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. ¹⁹ Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

²⁰ Looking at the disciples, Jesus said: “You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours.

²¹ You who hunger now are blessed,
for you’ll be filled.

You who weep now are blessed,
for you’ll laugh.

²² You are blessed when people hate you,
when they scorn and insult you
and spurn your name as evil
because of the Chosen One.

²³ On the day they do so,
rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven,
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

²⁴ But woe to you rich,
for you are now receiving your comfort in full.

²⁵ Woe to you who are full,
for you’ll go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you’ll weep in your grief.

²⁶ Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false prophets
in the same way.

REFLECTION

“Down the Mountain”

HYMN

“There Is a Name I Love to Hear”

#52

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.

† For those who are able, please stand.

SPECIAL MUSIC

EmBellishment (Hand Bell Choir)

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: Blessed are we when we bring forth our gifts for the needs of the poor, the pursuit of justice, the nurturing of community, the honoring of difference, and the goal of the common good. Woe to us when we mistake abundance as scarcity and generosity as a handout. God has given enough gifts for all to be well. By sharing our blessings, we demonstrate faith, trust and love.

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, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your redemptive work to save the world from inequities, pain, and despair. May our resources be renewed and magnified so that all needs are met and your name be praised. Amen.

† **HYMN**

“Blessed Assurance”

#473

PARTING WORDS

One: As you go into the world, remember that
Embodied Love has come down to join you.
God’s grace has come down to redeem you.
Spirit has come down to empower and equip you
To also come down with the world
In need of hope and encouragement
In want of witness and public proclamation
That God is good and still down with us.

POSTLUDE

† For those who are able, please stand.

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Down with Them: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

