



**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!”***

***“Good Measure”  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 23, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.***

**Worship Leaders:  
Pastor: Michael Small  
Liturgist: Deb Farrell  
Special Music: Sabbastian Wilson Webb  
Greeter: TBA  
Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb**

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

## **PRELUDE**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

## **WORDS FOR CHILDREN**

**† HYMN                                    “God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”                                    #531**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Psalm 37)*

One: Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

**All: We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.**

One: Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

**All: May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.**

One: May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

**All: May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.**

One: May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

## **A TIME OF CENTERING**

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

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† For those who are able, please stand.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**All:** Holy Love, bear in us a new beginning. Soften our hearts and still our minds into Your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives. Gift us with the renewing energy of Your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved community. Yes, mold us with Christ-love into agents of Your blessing, for the good of the world. May the cup of our lives run over with this of Your desire. In Your Holy name, we pray. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**All:** God of the grand reversal, we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms. Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to practice it in word and deed. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of Your love. By this of You, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with Your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew. 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:** I have good news! The Holy One, Love Almighty, interrupts our missteps and misdeeds, our distractions and our detours. In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now. It is the good news! You can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

## † PASSING THE PEACE

**One:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Sabbastian Wilson Webb

**Focus Scripture:** **Luke 6:27-38** *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2234). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>27</sup> “To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> When they

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† For those who are able, please stand.

slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. <sup>30</sup> Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don't demand it back.

<sup>31</sup> "Do to others what you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' do as much. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' lend to other 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You'll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

<sup>36</sup> "Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. <sup>37</sup> Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Pardon, and you'll be pardoned. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you'll be given back."

**REFLECTION**            **"Turn the Tables, Love Your Enemies!"**

**HYMN**                            **"Beautiful Jesus"**

#44

**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**

Sabbastian Wilson Webb

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

One: Jesus reminds us that God works by a different economy. He tells us, "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High." Friends, by this, joy is given space to rise. May we discover it growing in us as we bring our gifts to God.

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## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

**DOXOLOGY:** *(as collection plates come forward)*  
**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.**

Tune #780

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: Generous God, thank you for pressing Your holy love into the lap of our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied into a good larger than we can imagine. Also, bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. Amen.

† HYMN

**“O Savior, Let Me Walk with You”**

#503

## PARTING WORDS

One: May you be blessed with the courage to interrupt revenge with love.  
May you be strengthened with a gratitude that freely shares with others.  
May you discover again and again the merciful embrace of the Holy One.  
And may the love of God, empower you to help change the world with forgiveness.  
Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen!

## POSTLUDE

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



***A Good Measure: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Year C*** was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

