



**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!”

***Everything [in] Between
Faith and Works
The Second Sunday of Lent
March 16, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.***

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Bev Jorland

Special Music: Celebrate

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

"God Speak to Me That I May Speak"

#531

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come as you are.

All: If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,

One: if you know every scripture or none at all,

All: if you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works,

One: or if you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,

All: come as you are.

One: This is God's house.

All: None are turned away.

One: All are welcome here.

A TIME OF CENTERING

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

† For those who are able, please stand.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: God meets us in the night—

**All: before the sun rises, before the wound heals,
before there are answers,
before there is closure.**

One: God meets us in the light—

**All: where joy is effervescent,
where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.**

One: God meets us in between—

**All: at the edge of the water,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
on the edge of faith.**

One: And if God meets us in all those places,

**All: then surely God meets us everywhere—
at the water's edge,
at the start of something new,
after the baptism, and before the call.**

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

All: Let us worship the God of everything.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**All: God of Grace,
We long to do the “right” thing.
We long to make the “right” choice.
We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.**

**In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.**

**Show us how to hold our heart's desire for perfection loosely.
Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.
For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.
Show us the way.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

† For those who are able, please stand.

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

WORDS OF GRACE

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Celebrate

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Focus Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2246-2247). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

REFLECTION

“Creating Together”

HYMN

"O God, How We Have Wandered"

#202

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

Celebrate

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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

† For those who are able, please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe in a Christ who teaches, sees, affirms, and celebrates all of who we are. We believe in a Christ who invites us to use our gifts for good and celebrates every step we take in that direction. We believe in a Christ who understands our anxieties and is gentle with our concerns. And we believe in a Christ who looks at us with undiluted love.

The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners, but we know love has no limit. So, with God's help, may we nurture our faith and do good work. Amen.

† HYMN

“Ministry and Presence”

Insert

PARTING WORDS

POSTLUDE

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



**SANCTIFIED ART EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN
WORDS FOR WORSHIP** by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A
Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”



† For those who are able, please stand.

Ministry and Presence

EIN FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7 ("A Mighty Fortress is Our God")

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by Martin Luther, 1529



When Je - sus passed near Mar - tha's home she had no
Her sis - ter Ma - ry took a seat to spend time
He said, "You are both gifts to me with diff - erent



hes - i - ta - tion "Please treat my house like it's your own,"
with the tea - cher In - tent - ly listen - ing at his feet,
ways of be - ing. I won't take that from Ma - ry



she gave the in - vi - ta - tion She wan - ted all the best
his words drew her in dee - per But Mar - tha took of - fense
whose place is right here with me. You have no - thing to prove



To serve her hon - ored guest Her check - list grew and grew
At Ma - ry so con - tent With all there was to do
So let your heart be moved. Just one thing do I need:



Her time was all con - sumed With min - i - stry a - bound - ing
She need - ed Ma - ry too And asked for Je - sus' back - ing
To feel your love in deeds Of min - i - stry and pre - sence."

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Focus Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2246-2247). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

³⁸ As they traveled, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at Jesus' feet and listened to his words.

⁴⁰ Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, don't you care that my sister has left me all alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! You're anxious and upset about so many things, ⁴² but only a few things are necessary—really only one. Mary has chosen the better part, and she won't be deprived of it."

** ** * ** ** *

Luke 10:25-37 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (pp. 130-131). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

CHOOSING THE BEST PART

³⁸ As they journeyed on, they went to a village where a woman named Head Woman (*Martha*) gave them lodging at her house. ³⁹ Her sister Healing Tears (*Mary*), who lived with her, sat next to Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*) on the floor, listening to his teaching.

As their Wisdomkeeper, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) would teach the men who gathered around him, but this would not have been proper for a woman of that culture.

⁴⁰ Head Woman (*Martha*) was distracted, trying to get the meal ready for the honored guests. When she saw Healing Tears (*Mary*) sitting down, she walked up to Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*) and said, "Wisdomkeeper, do you not care that my sister has left me to work alone? Tell her to help me."

⁴¹ "Head Woman (*Martha*), O Head Woman (*Martha*)," he said, "I know many things worry and trouble you. ⁴² But you must set your heart on the one thing that matters. That is what Healing Tears (*Mary*) has done, and I will not take it from her."

† For those who are able, please stand.