



**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!”

May 18, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Easter

Looking for Love

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Deb Farrell

Special Music: Celebrate (Ken and Linda Barber, Chris Kolp)

Greeter: Doris and Larry Johnson

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deb Farrell

† HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

#386

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: More than kind or charitable, or even humane this Love that calls us takes on
flesh and bone and vulnerability

**All: We gather here to practice Love's solidarity, rising up in the valleys and
shadows of death.**

One: More than nice, or agreeable, or even polite this Love that forms us risks siding
with the last and the least

**All: We come together to become Love's liberation building collective power to
resist injustice.**

One: More than tolerant or accepting, or even affirming this Love that guides us opens
to new stories of harm and new visions of flourishing

† For those who are able, please stand.

All: We join together to embody Love's accountability laying down our defenses to grow beyond the edges of our knowing.

One: More than peaceful or unifying, or even friendly this Love that compels us dares to imagine beyond empire

All: We worship to remember Love's future praying, praising, and protesting until Love's kindom comes.

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: Take a moment to choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to open to God's resurrecting presence and action within. You could use words like: love, glory, enfleshed, embody, freedom, liberation, flourishing.

Take a few deep breaths and let your body-mind-spirit settle into prayer. In the silence, call to mind the sacred word you chose. If other thoughts interrupt, return gently to your sacred word. Notice what the Holy may be offering you in this moment.

[Hold silence for 1+ minutes]

With gratitude for the presence of God's resurrecting spirit in and among us, and acting through us, we offer our prayers. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: Love beyond all knowing, we recognize how deeply limited our understanding of love is, how often we fail to recognize Love's true practice and meaning, how much the powers and principalities of this world co-opt the idea of "love" for death-dealing purposes. In the silence of our hearts, let us call to awareness the misunderstandings of love that have shaped us as individuals.

[time for silent reflection]

For the ways we have wounded your Love,

All: O God, forgive us.

One: In the presence of God and each other, let us bring to mind the misunderstandings of love that shape us as a community.

[time for prayers offered aloud]

One: For the ways we have wounded your Love,

All: O God, forgive us.

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: Let your spirit receive this assurance: in all these things we are more than forgiven through the One who loved us.

All: Therefore, we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Redeemer. Thanks be to God.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Trust In You”

Celebrate

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: John 13:31-35 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2899-2900). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

- ³¹ Once Judas left, Jesus said,
“Now is the Chosen One glorified
and God is glorified as well.
³² If God has been glorified,
God will in turn glorify the Chosen One
and will do so very soon.
³³ My little children,
I won’t be with you much longer.
You’ll look for me,
but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you:
where I am going, you cannot come.
³⁴ I give you a new commandment:
Love one another.
And you’re to love one another
the way I have loved you.
³⁵ This is how all will know that you’re
that you truly love one another.”

John 13:31-35 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (p. 196). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

A NEW ROAD

³¹ After he left, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to them all, “The time has now come for the True Human Being to honor the Great Spirit and to be honored by him. ³² As soon as the Son gives him honor, it will come back again—full circle.”

† For those who are able, please stand.

The Passover meal was coming to an end. It was time to close the ceremony and face the dark night ahead. The heart of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) was full of compassion and love for the ones who had walked the road with him for over three winters.

33 “My little children,” he said to them, “my time with you is almost gone. You will look for me, but where I am going you cannot follow. This is the same thing I said to the other Tribal Members and I now say to you.”

His followers lifted their heads up and looked into the face of their Wisdomkeeper.

³⁴ “I am giving you a new road to walk,” he said. “In the same way I have loved you, you are to love each other. ³⁵ This kind of love will be the sign for all people that you are walking the road with me.”

REFLECTION “It’s All About Love”

HYMN "We Love Your Realm, O God" (vss. 1-4) #312

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.

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| SPECIAL MUSIC | “Imagine” | Celebrate |
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INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: When Jesus said, just as I have loved you, you should also love one another,
I think he meant,
Love like twelve years of bleeding stopped by one touch
Love like let the one who is without sin, cast the first stone
Love like let the children come to me
Love like 5000 people fed by bits and pieces and collective care
Love like tables turned and injustice resisted
Love like feet washed and meals shared
This is the love we are called to continue embodying in our world.
Through our offerings, let us love as Jesus loves us. Amen.

† For those who are able, please stand.

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.**

PRAER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**All: Let Love be our offering.
Let Love be our giving.
Let Love be our dedication.
Let Love be our calling.
Let Love be our thanksgiving.
Let Love be our prayer. Amen.**

† HYMN

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

#388

PARTING WORDS

One: People of Love,
as you go from this place, let love be what blesses you,
love that is not nice or polite, but knows how to sing in the midst of despair
how to rise up in the midst of death, how to hold fast in the midst of chaos
Let love be the blessing you share, love that is not tolerant or charitable
but knows how to care when all seems hopeless
how to listen when others are silenced
how to come alongside when no one else will.
People of Love, let love be your blessing, this day and every day until glory
comes.

POSTLUDE

WI-FI – "Guest" Scan QR Code for Internet Access

"Building Up a New World – Looking for Love" Service Prayers for
Easter 5C was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the
Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries.



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