



**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!”

**July 6, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
“Like Lambs”**

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Chris Kolp

Special Music: Chancel Choir and Ryan Pels

Greeter:

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

"Come, Labor On"

#532

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 30)

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

All: Shepherd and Source, you guide us in wisdom. You cover us in love.

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

All: Comforter and Spirit, you encourage us in times of trouble. You strengthen us for the journey.

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

All: Redeemer and Friend, you hear our cry, redeem the years of struggle, and restore our joy. Praise the Holy One!

A TIME OF CENTERING

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† For those who are able, please stand.

One: God our Good Shepherd, we come to worship you, to tell of the story of your marvelous deeds, to lament the horrors and suffering in the world, to find strength to be your witnesses, and to remind ourselves of the truth of what is possible. May our prayers rise to your heart, and your heart infiltrate our prayers. May we sing songs that move you with delight and compassion. May we recognize and ponder the wisdom you impart to us. And, may peace rest upon us as we gather in your name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Righteous God, forgive us for praying for the harvest without planting seeds. Forgive us for praying for the harvest without preparing the soil. Forgive us for praying for the harvest without tending the land, discerning weeds, and ensuring an adequate supply of water. Transform us for the work of the harvest. Transform us into cultivators of hope and joy. Transform us to plant seeds of justice and love. God of the harvest, equip us for the labor of stewarding the roots of new life you offer. 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: Beloved, there is room in the garden for you and the gifts you bring. Receive the grace of God to plant and replant, to till and to tend, to harvest and to hope. Rest in knowing that the One who sends you to work for a good harvest will sustain, guide, and renew you in this life.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Focus Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (pp. 2802-2803). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹ After this, Jesus appointed seventy-two others, and sent them on ahead in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. ² He said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few; therefore, ask the overseer to send workers to the harvest.

³ "Be on your way, and remember: I am sending you as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Don't carry a walking stick or knapsack; wear no sandals and greet no one along the way. ⁵ And whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be upon this house!' ⁶

† For those who are able, please stand.

If the people live peaceably there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will come back to you.⁷ Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you, for the laborer is worth a wage. Don't keep moving from house to house.⁸ "And whatever city you enter, after they welcome you, eat what they set before you⁹ and heal those who are sick in that town. Say to them, 'The reign of God has drawn near to you.'¹⁰ If the people of any town you enter don't welcome you, go into its streets and say,¹¹ 'We shake the dust of this town from our feet as testimony against you. But know that the reign of God has drawn near.'¹² I tell you, on that day the fate of Sodom will be less severe than that of such a town.

¹⁶ "Anyone who listens to you, listens to me. Anyone who rejects you, rejects me; and those who reject me, reject the One who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy-two disciples returned with joy, saying, "Rabbi, even the demons obey us in your name!"¹⁸ Jesus replied, "I watched Satan fall from the sky like lightning.

¹⁹ Look: I've given you the power to tread on snakes and scorpions—even all the forces of the enemy—and nothing will ever injure you.²⁰ Nevertheless, don't rejoice in the fact that the spirits obey you so much as that your names are inscribed in heaven."

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (pp. 128-129). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

The Great Harvest

¹ After this, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) chose seventy men from the ones who walked the road with him. He sent them out, two by two, to prepare the way for him in the villages he was about to visit *on his way to the Sacred Village of Peace (Jerusalem)*.

² He said to them, "There is a great harvest before us, but there are not enough helpers. Pray to the Harvest Chief, so he will send more helpers. Go and represent me.

³ You will be like lambs walking among wolves.⁴ Take no money pouch or traveling bundle with you—not even a second pair of moccasins. Waste no time greeting others on the way.

⁵ "When you lodge with someone, say to them first, 'Peace be to this house.'⁶ If people of peace live there, you will be welcomed. If not, your blessing of peace will return to you as you leave.⁷ Stay with the ones who welcome you. There is no need to move around from house to house. Share their food and drink with them, for the ones who work hard are worth feeding.

⁸ "In any village that welcomes you, eat whatever they set before you.⁹ Offer healing prayers for any who are sick and say to them, 'Creator's good road has come close to you.'

¹⁰ "If you enter a village and no one welcomes you, go into the village pathways and say,¹¹ 'We must wipe the dust of your village from our *clothes* as a sign against you, for Creator's good road has come close to you, *but you would not welcome it.*'

† For those who are able, please stand.

¹⁵ “As for you, Village of Comfort (Capernaum), do you think you will be lifted up to the spirit-world above? No! You will be brought down low, to the Dark Underworld of Death (Hades).”

Then he turned to his followers and said, ¹⁶ “The ones who welcome you welcome me. The ones who send you away are sending me away. The ones who send me away send away the one who sent me.”

So, after he said these things, the seventy went out, two by two, to all the villages.

The Harvesters Report Back

¹⁷ The seventy who were sent out by Creator Sets Free (Jesus) returned. Their hearts were overflowing with joy as they reported back to him. “Wisdomkeeper!” they said. “Even the evil spirits did what we said when we spoke to them in your name, representing you.”

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) looked up to the sky and back down at them.

¹⁸ Then he said to them, “With my own eyes I have seen Accuser (Satan) fall down like lightning from the spirit-world above. ¹⁹ Look and see! I have given you authority over snakes and spiders and over all the power of this enemy. Nothing will be able to harm you.”

But then he gave them some words of wisdom.

²⁰ “Yes, the spirits must listen to you, but do not be too happy about this. Instead, let your hearts be glad that your names are carved into the rock cliffs of the spirit-world above.”

REFLECTION

“Sent”

HYMN

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

#539

HOLY COMMUNION

INTRODUCTION

One: All the parts of this shared meal together come from the Earth.

The seeds of grain grew with patience, tenderness and love.

They were then gathered and milled into a loaf to be shared communally.

The grapes used on this cup we also grown with patience, tenderness and love.

† For those who are able, please stand.

They were gathered by the hands of migrant workers and pressed into juice to be shared communally.

We were reminded at the start of Lent this year that we, too, are from the Earth and that with patience, tenderness, and love we find ourselves here collectively willing to partake of elements that are meant to spark a new type of living in the world.

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Creator be with us all.

All: We remember the land from which we came

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We remember the patience and tenderness needed

One: Lift up our hearts

All: We remember the sacrifice You made to help us believe

One: Lift up our hearts.

HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#347

COMMUNION SERVED

(As the bread is served, hold on to the bread until all have been served – we eat together affirming that we are a part of the beloved community, the Body of Christ)

One: On the night Jesus was betrayed, he took the bread and asked the disciples to imagine it as both whole and broken, for in both states, it is a symbol of what was and yet still to come. Take, eat, and remember.

[Bread Served]

One: Jesus then took the cup asking the disciples to imagine what it feels like to be both empty and then full, for in both states, he shared that God is indeed with us. Take, drink, and remember.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

One: Praise to you Creator. For the gifts of Creation, the beauty of nature, the rains, the songs of the pollinating birds, the winds that carry the seeds.

All: Praise to you Creator.

One: For the gifts of our human existence, through the hard and the good, through the times we were wrong and the times we were right, you never stop trying to heal us and demonstrate hope when it is needed most.

All: Praise to you Creator.

One: For the ability to believe in the finite and the infinite. Through our brokenness you

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invite us to be collected again, And so here at this table, we remember.

SENDING

One: Through these shared rituals, we are shown what it is to be both whole and broken, and empty and full in order for us to embody the hope of abundant life in the presence of death and that we are not in this alone – that God came to help us better know what it is to be a healing community and a healed community. Amen.

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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: Galatians 6:2 challenges us to, “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” The reign of God assures us that there is enough. The Holy One’s creation and provision remains abundant, and we participate in the kingdom by refusing to hoard and to withhold from our siblings. Let us magnify the name of Creator by repudiating the falsehood of scarcity. Let us share in all things good given to us by the Generous One for common benefit and mutual aid.

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: We give you thanks, Wise God, for cultivating generosity within us and alerting

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us to the needs around us. Use these gifts for the expansion of your will on earth and the blessing of your beloved. In your name and in hope, we give these gifts. Amen.

† HYMN

"How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"

#594

PARTING WORDS

One: Go and say, "Peace."

Say peace when despair threatens to overwhelm you.

Say peace when the news of the day invites you to apathy or avoidance.

Say peace when a ceasefire is not enough.

Say peace because a loving approach to conflict can build it.

Say peace because a faithful people can realize it.

Say peace because the God of Peace is with you.

Go and say and be peace in the world.

POSTLUDE

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

Like Lambs: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.



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