



**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!”

**June 29, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday after Pentecost
“Along the Road”**

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Bev Jorland

Special Music: Ryan and Jo Pels

Greeter: Chris Kolp

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

“O Jesus, I Have Promise”

#493

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 77)

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

All: You work wonders and display your glory. How great is our God!

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so merciful as our God?

All: You redeem your people from generation to generation. How merciful is our God!

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so just as our God?

All: You hear the cries of the troubled and move in righteousness. How just is our God!

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 who journeys with us, we gather together as we follow you. You have made rough ways smooth. You have parted seas. You have given us strength to climb mountains and courage to traverse valleys. We open ourselves to the heartbreak of caring for the world that you love. We claim hope and joy as our inheritance and portion. We remember that you are with us and give you thanks for the journey. Hallelujah and amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: God of Grace, sometimes the call to follow you comes softly and gently. At other times, your call rushes in with urgency and may even overwhelm us as we balance the obligations of the day with the needs of the day. Gift us with discernment to know what needs our attention, focus, and energy. Free us of distractions, even and especially the ones we create for ourselves. At the same time remind us how to breathe and to be gracious toward one another. We travel a road we have not built and have not journeyed before. We rely upon you to demonstrate the way and lead us into the fullness of life and your kingdom.

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, the grace of God companions with you along the road. We journey this life in Christ, through Christ, and with Christ. Trust and rely upon the wisdom of the Everlasting One who knows you, the gifts you bring, and the burdens you bear. New life and transformation, as all things, are possible with God. Receive God's grace to free you from fear in order to embrace the journey.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ryan and Jo Pels

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:51-62 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2801). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁵¹ As the time approached when he was to be taken from this world, Jesus firmly resolved to proceed toward Jerusalem ⁵² and sent messengers on ahead. They entered a Samaritan town to make preparations for him, ⁵³ but the Samaritans wouldn't welcome Jesus because his destination was Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Rabbi, do you want us to call down fire from heaven and

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destroy them?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and reprimanded them. ⁵⁶ Then they set off for another town.

⁵⁷ As they were making their way along, they met a fellow traveler who said to Jesus, "I'll follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have lairs, the birds of the sky have nests, but the Chosen One has nowhere to rest." ⁵⁹ To another traveler Jesus said, "Follow me."

The traveler replied, "Let me bury my father first."

⁶⁰ Jesus said in return, "Let the dead bury their dead; you go and proclaim the reign of God everywhere."

⁶¹ Yet another traveler approached Jesus in this way: "I'll be your follower, Rabbi, but first let me say goodbye to my people at home."

⁶² Jesus answered, "Whoever puts a hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God."

Luke 9:51-62 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (pp. 127-128). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

The Wrong Spirit to Follow

⁵¹ His work on earth was coming to an end, and Creator Sets Free (Jesus) would soon be returning to the spirit-world above. So he *drew strength from deep within and* made up his mind to go to the Sacred Village of Peace (Jerusalem) *and finish what his Father sent him to do.*

⁵² He sent some other messengers ahead to High Place (Samaria) to find lodging, ⁵³ but the people of High Place (Samaria) would not welcome him, for they knew he was on his way to Village of Peace (Jerusalem), and they wanted nothing to do with the people there.

⁵⁴ When He Takes Over (James) and He Shows Goodwill (John) found out he was not welcome there, they said, "Wisdomkeeper, do you want us to call down fire from the spirit-world above to burn them up, like the prophet Great Spirit Is Creator (Elijah) did?"

⁵⁵ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) spoke sharply to them, "You do not know what spirit you are listening to, ⁵⁶ for the True Human Being came to help people, not hurt them."

After that, they walked silently with him toward another village.

Walk the Road with Me

⁵⁷ As they traveled on, a man walked up to Creator Sets Free (Jesus). "*Honored One,*" he said, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ He answered the man, "The foxes live in their holes, the winged ones who fly above us live in their nests, but the True Human Being has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) turned to another man and said, "Come, walk the road with me." "Honored One," he said, "let me first go home to my father *until it is time* to bury him."

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⁶⁰ “Let the ones who are dead bury their own dead,” he said to the man. “You are alive, go and tell others about Creator’s good road.”

⁶¹ Another said to him, “Honored One, I will walk the road with you, but first let me go home and prepare my family.”

⁶² Creator Sets Free (Jesus) told him, “No one who begins a journey and then turns back is ready to walk Creator’s good road.”

REFLECTION

“On the Road . . . Again”

HYMN

"Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"

#290

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

Ryan and Jo Pels

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: When we give generously of our resources, our gifts witness to God’s abundance, provision, and care. When we give, our gifts demonstrate our appreciation, trust, and compassion to God. Let us give as witnesses of the glory of God and the love of God in the world.

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: God our Provider, receive these gifts for your creation, for your kindom, for your glory. Amen.

† HYMN

"God of the Prophets"

#358

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PARTING WORDS

One: May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of God's hand.

POSTLUDE

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

Along the Road: Service Prayers for the Third 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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