



**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 8, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Day of Pentecost

“Truth, Trouble, Fear”

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Sonja Huber

Special Music: Sheli and Tim Johnson with Kenny Conger

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

“Let Every Christian Pray”

#261

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Acts 2:1 and Psalm 104)

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

All: We join for worship online and onsite, in real time and sometimes days later, and yet,

One: The Holy One sends forth the Spirit.

All: Who unites us, connects us, and forms us as a community.

One: We were created in spirit and in truth, wonderfully and fearfully, in the image of Holy Love.

All: God renews the face of the earth and the cosmos, this faith community and the church.

One: May the glory of God the Fire endure forever!

All: Bless the Holy One, oh my soul. Praise God!

A TIME OF CENTERING

† For those who are able, please stand.

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Spirit of Unity, you knit us together with all of our connections and distinctions. You make us one and yet unique. We gather to hear your voice and to attune ourselves to the language of the other, to celebrate the diversity of your creation and to immerse ourselves in compassionate care, to give you glory and to recognize the gift of community. May our hearts be opened and our lips declare your praise. Inhabit our worship with your abiding presence and inflame us with your love. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Spirit of God Amen, fall fresh on us. Let your refining fire bring impurities to the surface for the fullness of who we are to shine through. Forgive us for the ways we allow our diversity to be a reason for divisiveness and exclusion rather than a celebration of your wondrous work in us. Enable us to overcome and eradicate the barriers that we create in the name of our convenience and comfort that push your beloved to the margins. Awaken in us a desire to know and share space with neighbor, enemy, and kin. 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 of God, you have not received a spirit of fear, divisiveness, animus, or hate. Receive the true gift of God—the spirit of adoption—that binds us together as one and unique, connected and distinct, unified yet not uniform. The Spirit of God delights in you as the individual you are and are becoming as a co-heir with Christ of the kingdom as well as in the global human community that declares the creative breadth of the Holy One’s creative acts and surpassing love.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: John 14:8-17, 25-27 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2901-2904). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁸ “Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

† For those who are able, please stand.

⁹ Jesus replied,

“Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you don’t know me?
Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God.

How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’?

¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me?

The words I speak are not spoken of myself;
it is Abba God, living in me, who is accomplishing the works of God.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in God and God is in me,
or else believe because of the works I do.

¹² The truth of the matter is, anyone who has faith in me
will do the works I do—and greater works besides.

Why? Because I go to Abba God,

¹³ and whatever you ask in my name I will do,
so that God may be glorified in me.

¹⁴ Anything you ask in my name I will do.

¹⁵ If you love me and obey the command I give you,

¹⁶ I will ask the One who sent me

to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always—

¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept
since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her;
but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you
and will be within you.

¹⁸ I won’t leave you orphaned; I will come back to you.

¹⁹ A little while now and the world will see me no more;
but you’ll see me; because I live, and you will live as well.

²⁰ On that day you’ll know that I am in God, and you are in me,
and I am in you.

²¹ Those who obey the commandments are the ones who love me,
and those who love me will be loved by Abba God.

I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them.”

²² Judas—not Judas Iscariot—said, “Rabbi, why is it that you’ll reveal yourself to
us, and not to the whole world?”

²³ Jesus answered,

“Those who love me will be true to my word,
and Abba God will love them; and we will come to them
and make our dwelling place with them.

²⁴ Those who don’t love me don’t keep my words.

Yet the message you hear is not mine;
it comes from Abba God who sent me.

²⁵ This much have I said to you while still with you;

²⁶ but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom Abba God will send in my name,
will instruct you in everything and she will remind you of all that I told you.

† For those who are able, please stand.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you;
but the kind of peace I give you is not like the world's peace.
Don't let your hearts be distressed; don't be fearful.

John 14:8-17, 25-27 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (pp. 197-198). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

SHOW US THE FATHER

⁸ Friend of Horses (Philip) said to him, "Wisdomkeeper, show us the Father, and that will be enough."

⁹ "Friend of Horses (Philip)," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, "how long have you walked with me, and still you do not know me? How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? The ones who have seen me have seen the Father. ¹⁰ Do you not believe that the Father is in me and I am in the Father?"

"The words I speak to you are not my own. It is the Father speaking in me. ¹¹ Trust in me, for I am in the Father and he is in me. Or at least trust in the works my Father does through me. ¹² "I speak from my heart. The ones who trust in me will do the same things I do, and even greater things, for I am going away to my Father. ¹³⁻¹⁴ When you ask the Father for anything, ask it in my name, representing who I am. When you ask for anything in this way, I will do it to bring honor to my Father.

PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will walk in my ways. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father to send one who will always walk beside you and guide you on the good road. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of Truth, the one this world is not able to accept because it does not see or know him. But you know him, for he is with you now and will soon be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you like a child with no parents. I will come back to you. ¹⁹ Soon this world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I will live again, you will also live. ²⁰ When that day comes, you will know that I am in the Father, that you are in me, and that I am in you. ²¹ The ones who walk in my ways and stay true to my message love me. They will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and show them my true self."

²² Speaks Well Of (Judas), not the one who betrayed him, asked, "Wisdomkeeper, how will you show yourself to us and not to the rest of the world?"

²³ "I will show myself to the ones who love me and are staying true to my teachings. They will be loved by my Father, and we will come and make our home in and among them. ²⁴ The ones who do not return my love will not walk in my message. This message is not only mine. It is from my Father, the one who sent me.

²⁵ "I have told you these things while I am still with you, ²⁶ but there is one whom the Father is sending to represent me. He will walk beside you and be your spirit guide. He is the Holy Spirit, who will be your Wisdomkeeper and will help you to remember all that I have told you.

† For those who are able, please stand.

GREAT PEACE

²⁷ “I leave you now with my great peace. It is my gift to you. It is not the kind of peace the world gives. Do not let the troubles of this world fill you with fear and make your hearts fall to the ground, and do not let fear hold you back.

REFLECTION

“Truth! Trouble! And Fear!”

HYMN

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

#286

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: The Spirit of God has been poured out on us. For the gifts of God, we give thanks. For the grace of God, we extend our trust. For the love of God, we bring forth the gifts we have to give. May our offerings of time, talent, and treasure ignite and unite this community for the hope of the world around us, near and far.

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: Spirit of the Living God, receive our gifts as tangible expressions of our belonging to your church and our commitment to the ministry begun in Christ and continued through this faith community. Magnify them in miraculous ways, and make our generosity a demonstration of the love you have given us and we return to the world you love. Amen.

† HYMN

"On Pentecost They Gathered"

#272

† For those who are able, please stand.

PARTING WORDS

One: Go, united as living testimonies of the Source of all love, the Embodiment of divine power, and the Spirit of truth and wisdom.

Go, in the assurance that the same flame that ignited the early disciples burns alive in the church today.

Go, with glad hearts and courage, as the Advocate guides and with the peace Christ provides.

POSTLUDE

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

Truth, Trouble, and Fear: Service Prayers for the Day of Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.



† For those who are able, please stand.