



**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!”***

**August 3, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
“Rich Toward God”**

**Worship Leaders:  
Pastor: Michael Small  
Liturgist: Joanna Aamodt  
Special Music: Community Choir  
Greeter: Jo Pels  
Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb**

**Tech:** Ace Diehl (Video), Ben Batson (Audio)  
Spiritual Life, Chancel and Communion Preparation

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**† HYMN**

**“Praise to the Living God”**

**#8**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 107)**

One: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

**All: For the Holy One redeemed us and sustained us through the time of trouble.**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good!

**All: For the Compassionate One heard our cry and sustained us through the time of trouble.**

One: Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

**All: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to 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**

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† For those who are able, please stand.

One: Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us. We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your wonderful works. We lament the suffering of the world and take courage that you are with us. We ask that you make your presence known to us. Speak, O God, for we attune our attention for your guidance. Receive our praise as we glorify your name! Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

**All:** Holy God, too often we seem determined to turn away from you. You, however, continually call us to repentance—to turn—back to you and your way. We pray for fortitude to remain on the path set by Jesus and embody the ministry of Christ in the world. Deliver us from the insignificant concerns that distract us and empower us to do the work you have called us to do. Most of all, grant us grace to be the people you have made us to be.

## **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, you have received an inheritance of riches in God. These treasures of hope, strength, encouragement, peace, grace, joy, rest, and love are yours to claim. They are yours to live. Receive them freely and abundantly.

## **† PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Look at the World”** by John Rutter

Community Choir

**Focus Scripture:** **Luke 12:13-21** *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (pp. 683-684). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance.”

<sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, “Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?” <sup>15</sup> Then he told the crowd, “Avoid greed in all its forms. Your life isn’t made more secure by what you own—even when you have more than you need.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus then told them a parable in these words: “There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest.

<sup>17</sup> “ ‘What will I do?’ the farmer mused. ‘I have no place to store my harvest. <sup>18</sup> I know! I’ll pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and goods will go

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there. <sup>19</sup> Then I'll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!

<sup>20</sup> "But God said to the farmer, 'You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?'

<sup>21</sup> "This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves, but are not rich in God."

**Luke 12:13-21** *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (p. 134). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

## Look Out for Greed

<sup>13</sup> Someone from the crowd pushed forward and said to him, "Wisdomkeeper, tell my brother to give me my part of what our father left to us."

<sup>14</sup> Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to him, "Who made me the one to decide this between you and your brother? <sup>15</sup> Watch your step, or greed will make you stumble. Remember, one's life is not made up of many possessions."

*There were many people in the crowd who heard what he said about possessions,* <sup>16</sup> so he told this story to help them see more clearly.

"A man with many possessions had a field that was growing a great harvest of food. <sup>17</sup> 'What will I do with all this food?' he said to himself. 'I have no room in my storage barns for this great harvest.'

"The man *thought about it and then* said to himself again, <sup>18</sup> 'I know what I will do, I will tear down my old storage barns and build larger ones. <sup>19</sup> I will have enough to last me many winters. Then I will take my rest, eat, drink, and celebrate.'

<sup>20</sup> "But the Great Spirit said to him, 'Why are you being so foolish? This is the day you will cross over to death and give an answer for your life. Now who will get the goods you have stored up for yourself?'"

*Creator Sets Free (Jesus) let the people think about the story, and then he said,* <sup>21</sup> "This is how it will be for the ones who make themselves rich but forget about Creator's true riches."

## REFLECTION

### "Become Rich Toward God"

## HYMN

### "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

#563

## 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.

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† For those who are able, please stand.

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

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**All: Praise to you Creator.**

One: For the ability to believe in the finite and the infinite. Through our brokenness you 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**      **“A Claire Benediction”** by John Rutter      Community Choir

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

One: Having received the gifts of God, let us seek the kingdom and return a portion of our abundance to the ministry of this faith community so that our collective offering will bless God and God’s people.

## **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: Holy One, bless these offerings, prosper the work of our hands, and the gifts we bring. We dedicate them to your kingdom forever and ever. Amen.

**† HYMN**      **“At the Font We Start Our Journey”**      #308

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## PARTING WORDS

One: May God's kindom come.  
May God's will be done.  
Through us.  
In us.  
In our communities  
As we go  
On earth.

## POSTLUDE

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

***Rich Toward God: Service Prayers for the Eighth 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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