



**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 24, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
“On the Sabbath”**

**Worship Leaders:
Pastor: Michael Small
Liturgist: Bev Jorland
Special Music: Linda and Ken Barber
Greeter: Linda Barber
Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb**

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

“This Is the Day”

#84

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 71)

One: Let us worship the Holy One, our refuge, hope and trust. Our praise is continually of our God!

All: God will not put us to shame. God is our rock!

One: Turn to the God who saves and delivers. Our praise is continually of our God!

All: God’s righteousness redeems. God is our shelter!

One: Find rest and delight in the Holy One. Our praise is continually of our God!

All: We lean upon the Holy One. God is our sure foundation!

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: God of the Sabbath, you make this day holy. As we gather in your name, redeem

† For those who are able, please stand.

the days when our focus wandered and draw us back to you. Let your wisdom, justice, and compassion guide us. Slow our pace to attend to those things that matter. Open our understanding to the good that needs to be done. Sustain us for the challenges we face, Make your name known among us and through us. We glorify and honor you in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed, in season and out of season. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Holy God, we confess that we have trampled the sabbath. We claim your name and not your way. We cling to excuses to avoid discomfort or sacrifice in service of our neighbor. We turn from human suffering. We keep silent in the face of wickedness. Transform us, O God, that we might be saved from the vise of evil and the lure of inaction. Rebuild us with righteousness and hope and redeem us for your kingdom. 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, in Isaiah 58:9, the Voice assures, “Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.” God’s abiding presence never leads us; God’s transforming love will empower you to live the just and righteous life. Receive grace for participation and belonging in the kingdom. God’s mercies are renewed for us.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Linda and Ken Barber

Focus Scripture: : **Luke 13:10-17** *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (pp. 684-685). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹⁰ One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues. ¹¹ There was a woman there who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit. She was bent double, quite incapable of standing up straight.

¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are free of your infirmity.” ¹³ He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and began thanking God.

† For those who are able, please stand.

¹⁴ The head of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, “There are six days for working. Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath.”

¹⁵ Jesus said in reply, “You hypocrites! Which of you doesn’t let your ox or your donkey out of the stall on the Sabbath to water it? ¹⁶ This daughter of Sarah and Abraham has been in the bondage of Satan for eighteen years. Shouldn’t she have been released from her shackles on the Sabbath?” ¹⁷ At these words, Jesus’ opponents were humiliated; meanwhile, everyone else rejoiced at the marvels Jesus was accomplishing.

Luke 13:10-17 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (p. 137). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Conflict About the Day of Resting

¹⁰ On another Day of Resting, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) was teaching at a gathering house. ¹¹ There was a woman there who had a spirit of weakness for eighteen winters. Her back was bent and twisted, so she could not stand up straight.

¹² When Creator Sets Free (Jesus) saw her, he told her to come to him and said, “Honored woman, you are set free from your weakness.” ¹³ He put his hands on her, and right away she stood up straight and gave thanks to the Great Spirit.

¹⁴ The headman of the gathering house was offended because Creator Sets Free (Jesus) had healed on the Day of Resting. He stood up and told the people, “Are there not six other days to do your work? Come on one of those days to be healed, not on the Day of Resting.”

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) helped the woman back to her seat. He then turned to the headman with a look of sorrow mixed with anger on his face.

¹⁵ “You who wear false faces!” he said to the headman. “Is there anyone who would not untie his horse on the Day of Resting and take it to a watering hole? ¹⁶ This woman is a daughter of Father of Many Nations (Abraham). Accuser (Satan), that evil trickster, has kept her this way for eighteen winters. Why should she not be set free on the Day of Resting?”

¹⁷ The enemies of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) were put to shame by his words, but the hearts of the people jumped for joy because of the wonderful things he was doing.

REFLECTION

“On the Sabbath”

HYMN

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”

#539

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

† For those who are able, please stand.

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

Ken and Linda Barber

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: We invite you to participate in the kingdom of God through generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. Our financial contributions enable this church to meet the needs of our community and spread the love of God. Let us give in grateful expression of our faith and gratitude for our generous God.

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: Gracious and Generous God, receive these gifts in faith and trust. Help us to be good stewards of the resources you have given to us and bless our generosity for your glory. Amen.

† HYMN

“Lead on Eternal Sovereign”

#573

PARTING WORDS

One: On the sabbath,
Make God's Name known
Love our neighbors
Spread the good news
Do justice

POSTLUDE

† For those who are able, please stand.

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

On the Sabbath: *Service Prayers for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

