



**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!”

**September 28, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
“Comfort and Agony”**

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Gay Jacobson

Special Music: Sabbastian Wilson Webb

Greeter: Joanne Pels

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN **“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”** (Vss. 1-4) **#543**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired Psalm 146)

One: Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

All: We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!

One: Praise God in whom we may trust. Praise God in whom we may hope.

All: Happy are we whose hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.

One: The Holy One lifts the bowed down. The Righteous One loves justice.

All: The Holy One brings the way of the wicked to ruin. Praise God who reigns forever!

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 our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our souls. Engage our spirits

† For those who are able, please stand.

with truth and compassion. Stir our hearts with your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so that we may honor you and be restored in you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Compassionate God, we need to repent. We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor. We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins. We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kingdom enables all to flourish. Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. 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: God's mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God's grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sabbastian Wilson Webb

Focus Scripture: Luke 16:19-31 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (pp. 686-687). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹⁹ "Once there was a rich person who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. ²⁰ At the gate of this person's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. ²¹ Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich person's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. ²² One day poor

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Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Sarah and Abraham. The rich person likewise died and was buried.²³ In Hades, in torment, the rich person looked up and saw Sarah and Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in their company.

²⁴ “ ‘Sarah and Abraham,’ the rich person cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’²⁵ But they said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.’²⁶ But that’s not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can’t do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’

²⁷ “The rich person said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house²⁸ where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’²⁹ But Sarah and Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’³⁰ ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich person said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’³¹ ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Sarah and Abraham replied, ‘they won’t be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’ ”

Luke 16:19-31 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (pp. 142-143). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

The Rich Man and the Beggar

¹⁹ “There was once a man with many possessions who always dressed in the best clothes, had more than enough to eat, and lived a life of ease.²⁰ Every day a beggar named Creator Helps Him (Lazarus) was laid at the gate of his lodge.²¹ Dogs would come and lick the sores that covered his body as he begged for crumbs from the rich man’s table.

²² “When the time came for the beggar to cross over to the world of the dead, spirit-messengers carried him into the welcoming arms of his ancestor, Father of Many Nations (Abraham).

“At the same time the rich man also crossed over to death, and his body was buried.²³ In the Dark Underworld of Death (Hades) he was suffering and in pain. He looked up and saw his ancestor, Father of Many Nations (Abraham), far off in the distance. He could see Creator Helps Him (Lazarus) being comforted in his arms.

²⁴ “He cried out in his pain, ‘Father of Many Nations (Abraham), my ancestor, have pity on me. Send Creator Helps Him (Lazarus) to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my thirsty tongue. Help me, for I am suffering in this flame.’

²⁵ “Father of Many Nations (Abraham) said to him, ‘My son, do you not remember? All your days were filled with good things, but the days of Creator Helps Him (Lazarus) were filled with sorrow and pain. It is now his time for comfort, but it is your time for

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sorrow and pain. ²⁶ Look! There is a great canyon between us, so wide that none can make the journey from here to there.'

²⁷ "The rich man *hung his head and* said, 'Please, my ancestor, send him back to the lodge ²⁸ of my father and my five brothers. He can warn them of this place of suffering and pain, so they will not have to come here also.'

²⁹ "Father of Many Nations (Abraham) said to him, 'They have the words of Drawn from the Water (Moses) and the words of the prophets. Let your family listen to them.'

³⁰ "'No!' the rich man cried out. 'If someone goes back to them from the world of the dead, they will turn their hearts back to Creator.'

³¹ "Father of Many Nations (Abraham) *shook his head and* said, 'If your family will not listen to Drawn from the Water (Moses) and the prophets, then they will not listen even to one who comes back to life from the dead.'"

REFLECTION

"Comfort and Agony"

HYMN

"I Will Trust in the Lord"

#416

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

Sabbastain Wilson Webb

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: May our hearts be open to the generous life. The Sovereign God invites us to participate in building the kingdom through our financial resources. Let us give in gratitude and joy knowing that sharing our abundance blesses our neighbor, community, and 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.**

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. Amen.

† HYMN

“God Moves in Mysterious Ways” (Vss. 1-4)

#412

PARTING WORDS

One: As you go,
Spread comfort and hope
Notice people
Recognize their condition
Know their worth
And be comforted
That the Maker of heaven and earth
Notices you
Recognizes your condition
And knows your worth.
Go in hope and care.

POSTLUDE

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

Comfort and Agony: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth 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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