



**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!”

October 5, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Increase Our Faith”

World Communion Sunday

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Chris Kolp

Special Music: Community Choir

Greeter: John and Joanna Aamodt

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

Tech: Ace Diehl (Video), Ben Batson (Audio)

Spiritual Life, Chancel and Communion Preparation

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN **“Through All The World, a Hungry Christ”** (Tune: #543) **#587**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Rev. Taisaku OBATA (Minister, Ube Church, United Church of Christ in Japan)

Translated by Mr. David McIntosh (Overseas Liaison, United Church of Christ in Japan)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

All: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God’s will.

One: What do we find at today’s table?

All: God’s love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today’s table?

All: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God’s power to bring salvation to all who believe.

All: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

One: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

† For those who are able, please stand.

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: Holy Assurance,

The cobwebs of doubt spread as we notice divisions and injustices grow. We are uncertain of your presence and have great doubt of the ways you work through us. As we seek your presence among us, clear our minds of the distractions. As mercy blossoms, our doubts will transform to belief. Fill our souls with hope. May we know that your Realm abides around us. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Spirit of Encouragement,

You thrive in our times of doubt. Your work takes root even if the drought of fear destroys our fertile soil. Yet we allow our mistrust of you and our neighbors to disturb our growth. We ask you to increase our faith when we are refusing to cultivate it. Motivate us to seek new ways of exploring our faith. Embolden us to trust even when fear creeps into our minds. 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: In seasons of drought and rains, God is still giving us the encouragement to grow in faith. Know that through the grace of God, we will continue to find the strength to stretch ourselves and expand our faith.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

Focus Scripture: Luke 17:1-10 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 687). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹ Jesus said to the disciples, “Stumbling blocks will inevitably arise, but woe to those through whom stumbling blocks come! ² Those people would be better off thrown into the sea with millstones around their necks, than to make one of these little ones stumble.

³ “Be on your guard. If your sisters or brothers do wrong, correct them; if they repent, forgive them. ⁴ If they sin against you seven times a day, and seven times a day turn back to you saying, ‘I’m sorry,’ forgive them.”

† For those who are able, please stand.

⁵ The apostles said to Jesus, “Increase our faith!”

⁶ Jesus answered, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Uproot yourself and plant yourself in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “If one of you had hired help plowing a field or herding sheep, and they came in from the fields, would you say to them, ‘Come and sit at my table?’ ⁸ Wouldn’t you say instead, ‘Prepare my supper. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink afterward’? ⁹ Would you be grateful to the workers who were just doing their job? ¹⁰ It’s the same with you who hear me. When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say, ‘We are simple workers. We have done no more than our duty.’ ”

Luke 17:1-10 *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (p. 143). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Trouble Will Come

¹ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to the ones who walked the road with him, “This world of sorrow and pain will make many stumble, but how terrible it will be for the ones who go along with it. ² It would be better to be thrown into the deep waters with a great stone tied to your neck than to cause even one of these little ones, who trust in me, to stumble on the path.

“*When you are wronged*, ³⁻⁴ look first at what is in your own heart. If one of your brothers or sisters in the sacred family has wronged you, then tell them face to face. If they turn around and ask forgiveness, then release them—even if they do this seven times in one day.”

⁵ “Wisdomkeeper,” his message bearers said, “help our weak faith!” ⁶ “If you had faith as small as a mustard seed,” he replied, “you could also say to this mulberry tree, ‘Come out by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would do what you say.

Doing Only What Is Expected

⁷ “Would an elder who sent a young man out to hunt for a deer, when the young man returned, say to him, ‘Sit down while I skin the deer and cook the meal for you’? ⁸ No, but he would say, ‘Now skin the deer, then clean up and cook for me, then when I am finished, you can eat.’

⁹ “The young man is only doing what is expected and deserves no special thanks. ¹⁰ In the same way, when you have done everything the Great Spirit expects of you, serve him as you would an elder and do not expect to be honored for doing only what you should do.”

REFLECTION

“Increase Our Faith”

† For those who are able, please stand.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – COMMUNION LITURGY

Today, we join Christians around the world who gather at Christ's table in many languages, cultures, and traditions. On this World Communion Sunday, we remember that though we come from many places, we are one body, sharing one bread and one cup in Christ.

INVITATION

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

All: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

All: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

All: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

All: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

One: Today, on this World Communion Sunday, God gathers us at one table with disciples of every language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, God gathers us in many places and makes us one in Christ. At this table, we remember the cost of discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ's gifts poured out for the whole world.

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Creator of the Universe, Maker of mountains and rivers, deserts and seas, vineyards and wheat fields, we praise you for the life you have given us and for all living things around us! From the seeds you scattered, you gathered the people of Israel, giving them your covenant and your promise. In the fullness of time, you came to us in Jesus of Nazareth, child of Mary and the Promised One of Israel. We honor his teachings, we weep at his suffering, and we rejoice in his risen life. With angels and archangels, with our ancestors in faith, and with our brothers and sisters who gather at your table across every continent and island, we ask your blessing on this bread and this cup. May these gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen us to be the gathered and scattered Church in the world—many in culture and expression, yet one in Spirit, one in truth, one in faith, one in love. Gather your scattered seeds into your home of grace and peace, where all creation is renewed in you.

SPECIAL MUSIC**"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

Community Choir

COMMUNION SERVED

† For those who are able, please stand.

(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

All: We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and the living presence of Christ among us. We thank you for the gift of growth and grace in this life-renewing feast. We thank you for the company of your great cloud of witnesses, here in this place, in every land, and throughout the generations. Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world—renewed, invigorated, and committed—that, so nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus' name. Amen

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.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

† For those who are able, please stand.

One: As we journey with God, we listen to God's still-speaking voice asking us to have faith in all we share. The Spirit of God asks us to live into our faith as we share our treasures, talents, and time with all of creation.

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 Vessel of Endurance,

When our spirits experience dehydration, you quench our souls. When doubt creeps into our minds, you fill our hearts with your hydrating presence.

Encourage us to stretch ourselves in our giving. Help us to see that we have the faith to take movements forward into the future with courage and strength. Amen.

† HYMN

"Be Not Dismayed" (vss. 1, 3, 4)

#460

PARTING WORDS

One: Beloved children of God,

Trust in the faith that abides within you.

Know that the Spirit will nurture that faith,

Believe that the Christ will inspire that faith

And know that our Holy Parent will encourage your faith in each stage in life

Today and always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

WI-FI – "Guest" Scan QR Code for Internet Access

Increase Our Faith: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian , an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.



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