



**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!”

November 30, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.



The First Sunday of Advent | *What do you fear?*

IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN

Luke 1:5-13 | Lamentations 3:55-57

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Joanna Aamodt

Special Music: Sue Grage

Greeter: Gay Jacobson

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

#122

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On Sundays and Mondays,

All: on good days and bad days,

One: early in the morning and very late at night,

All: here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space.

One: Surprise us with your presence.

All: Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

A TIME OF CENTERING

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

† For those who are able, please stand.

CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

All: We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together. We know hope, deep in my bones, when we dream of a better world.

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

All: Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Light candle.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE *Sing Verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” without Refrain* #116

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Child of God appear.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God,
we long to feel you close.
We long to feel your presence in our lives.
We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.
However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions.
Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod,
even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

(Each person can take this time to surrender to God privately anything weighing heavy on their heart.)

WORDS OF GRACE

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

† For those who are able, please stand.

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Focus Scripture: Luke 1:5-13 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 673). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁵ In the days of the ruler Herod, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the priestly class of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both were worthy in the sight of God and scrupulously observed all the commandments and observances of our God. ⁷ They were childless—unable to conceive—and they were both advanced in years.

⁸ Now it was the turn of Zechariah's priestly class to serve. And as he was fulfilling his priestly office before God, ⁹ it fell to him by lot, according to priestly usage, to enter the sanctuary of our God and offer incense. ¹⁰ While the full assembly of people was praying outside at the time of day when the incense was offered, ¹¹ an angel of our God appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹² Zechariah was deeply disturbed upon seeing the angel, and was overcome with fear.

¹³ The angel said to him, "Don't be frightened, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, whom you'll name John."

Lamentations 3:55-57 (p. 471)

- ⁵⁵ But I called your Name, O God,
From the depths of the pit.
⁵⁶ You heard me call: "Don't close your ears
when I cry for mercy!"
⁵⁷ You came to me when I called.
"Fear not!" you said.

REFLECTION

"Fear Not"

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

#124

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time

† For those who are able, please stand.

of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.
We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe.
Amen.

† HYMN

† For those who are able, please stand.

In the Time of Herod

CRANHAM 11.11.11.11

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Gustav Holst, 1906



In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep-ing in
Pierc-ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song
In the time of Her - od, fear has ta - ken hold

5



Hope was bur - ied deep and hid - den, rare as gold
Day by day the peo - ple bent and drew with - in
"Do not fear!" rings hol - low when we've feared so long
Still we share a long - ing for a glimpse of hope

9



Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared not speak a - loud
With the clouds so hea - vy, who could see the stars?
Still in the re - cess - es of our wea - ry souls
Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout the truth we trust:

13



Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break-ing through the clouds
Hope - less-ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars
Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?
God will stop at no - thing to be here with us

PARTING WORDS

POSTLUDE

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