



**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!”

December 24, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve | What do you fear?
GOOD NEWS IS LOUDER THAN FEAR
Luke 2:1-20

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Deb Farrell

**Special Music: Christmas Choir, EmBELLishments, Celebrate,
Sabbastian Wilson Webb with Julie Bright**

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

MUSIC

EmBELLishments

† HYMN

"O Come All You Faithful" (vss. 1, 3, 4)

#135

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this holy night, we come,

**All: dazzled and awe-struck,
ready to sing alongside the angels.**

One: On this holy night, we come,

**All: eager and hopeful,
ready to journey alongside the shepherds.**

One: On this holy night, we come,

† For those who are able, please stand.

All: quietly and tenderly,
ready to worship alongside Mary.

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming: good news is louder than fear.

One: Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

A TIME OF CENTERING

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

CANDLE LIGHTING – CHRIST CANDLE

One: In a fearful world, where do you see the presence of God?

All: We see God's fingerprints all around us. We
see God in the beauty of the stars. We see
God in the love of this community. We see
God in the dreams we hold for a better world.

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

All: On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle
as a reminder of this good news. May this
flicker of light help us remember that even
in a fearful world, God's love is all around us.

Light candle.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE

Sing Verses of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (with EmBELLishments)

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

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadow put to flight.

Refrain

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

† For those who are able, please stand.

God of angel choruses,
you hang the stars in the sky,
but we do not see them.

You fill the night with angelic song, but we do not hear it.
You send shepherds to tell the good news, but we do not believe them.

You bring love into the world, but we do not seek it.

Quiet the fear in us that works to rationalize, minimize, and distract from
the good news you put forth into the world.
Tune our hearts back to your song.
With hope we pray, 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.**

MUSIC “Christmas Medley - Some Children See Him - Little Drummer Boy - Do You Hear What I Hear” Christmas Choir Soloist: Sarah Chaffe-Bates

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Deb Farrell

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Focus Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 674). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹ In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. ² This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. ⁴ And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; ⁵ he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

† For those who are able, please stand.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her delivery. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn.

⁸ There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. ⁹ The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid.

¹⁰ The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. ¹¹ Today in David’s city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. ¹² Let this be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in high heaven!
And on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.” ¹⁶ They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; ¹⁷ once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. ¹⁸ All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds.

¹⁹ Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

MUSIC	“O Holy Night”	Sabbastian Wilson Webb Accompaniment: Julie Bright
REFLECTION	“Shout”	
HYMN	“Shout”	Insert

† For those who are able, please stand.

Shout!

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Traditional English melody, 16th cent.

When fear lies like a blan - ket thick and
The pierc - ing song the an - gels bring to
Sur - ren - der to the joy this night of

mutes the joy of li - ving When He - rod reigns with
 un - sus - pect - ing shep - herds Is hard to hear with
 God in - car - nate born for us Shout in the streets, wake

terr - or great, the an - gels break in, sing - ing
frigh - tened ears so used to news of ter - ror
those who sleep to join the an - gel cho - rus

Shout! Shout your glo-ri-as in all the earth and heaven a-bove

Shout! Shout the an-gels' news that hope is born in Je-sus

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

MUSIC “Mary Did You Know?” Celebrate (Chris Kolp, Linda & Ken Barber)

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.

† For those who are able, please stand.

Amen.

CANDLE-LIGHTING SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

*(The leader lights the first candle from the Christ Candle – Using same method all candles will be lit pew by pew – **after all candles are lit begin singing Silent Night**)*

(After all the candles are lit, the lights will be turned off. While seated, all are invited to sing three verses of Silent Night)

† HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Accompanied by EmBELLishments)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia, Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light. Radiant beams from Your holy
face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord, at Your birth Jesus Lord, at Your
birth

(After singing Silent Night – Candles blown out – lights turned on)

PARTING WORDS

† HYMN "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love And wonders, wonders, of His love

POSTLUDE

† For those who are able, please stand.

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[†] For those who are able, please stand.