



**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 7, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.



The Second Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?

WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

Matthew 11:1-11 | Isaiah 43:19-21

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Gay Jacobson

Special Music: Community Choir

Greeter: Joanna Aamodt

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

"Looking Out a Prison Window"

Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O Family of faith, God is at work!

All: God is healing and creating,

One: redeeming and dreaming,

All: calling and sending,

One: listening and loving.

All: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

One: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

All: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. 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 - PEACE

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

All: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

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

All: Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

Light candle.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and help us in that way to go.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope.

We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.

And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.

With anxious hearts we cry out to you,

"Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?"

Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move.

With open hearts 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.

† For those who are able, please stand.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Focus Scripture: Matthew 11:1-11 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (pp. 646-647). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹ When Jesus had finished instructing the Twelve, he left the area to teach and preach in the outlying towns of the region.

² While John was in prison, he heard about the works the Messiah was performing, and sent a message by way of his disciples ³ to ask Jesus, “Are you ‘The One who is to come’ or do we look for another?”

⁴ In reply, Jesus said to them, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see:

⁵ ‘Those who are blind recover their sight;
those who cannot walk are able to walk;
those with leprosy are cured;
those who are deaf hear;
the dead are raised to life;
and the anawim—the “have-nots”—
have the Good News preached to them.’

⁶ “Blessed is the one who finds no stumbling block in me.”

⁷ As the messengers set off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out to the wasteland to see—a reed swaying in the wind? ⁸ Tell me, what did you go out to see—someone luxuriously dressed? No, those who dress luxuriously are to be found in royal palaces. ⁹ So what did you go out to see—a prophet? Yes, a prophet—and more than a prophet! ¹⁰ It is about John that scripture says,

‘I send my messenger ahead of you
to prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “The truth is, history has not known a person born of woman who is greater than John the Baptizer. Yet the least born into the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Isaiah 43:19-21 (p. 244)

¹⁹ Look, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth—can’t you see it?
I’m making a road in the desert
and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland.

²⁰ Wild beasts will honor me—
the jackals and the ostriches—

† For those who are able, please stand.

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REFLECTION

HYMN "How Firm a Foundation" (vss. 1, 2, 3) [Tune: Adeste Fideles #135] #407

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION SERVED

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN **“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”** **#342**

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC EmBELLishment

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.**

† For those who are able, please stand.

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

"My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"

#106

PARTING WORDS

POSTLUDE

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

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Looking Out a Prison Window

IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Henry John Gauntlett, 1849



Look - ing out a pri - son win - dow, who can
All the things that keep us cap - tive shrink our
To our sib - lings still im - pris - oned be - hind
We are called to li - ber - a - tion, to be



see the flow - ers bloom? Hope dis - solves like dreams at
op - ti - mis - tic faith We must prac - tice hope on
bars of steel or fear Bring the mes - sage from our
freed and to set free Break - ing chains of world - ly



day - break leav - ing us an emp - ty room Still be - yond what
pur - pose e - ven when our spi - rits break 'Til at last our
Sav - ior: hope is real and dawn - ing near Tell the gos - pel
pow - ers who would claim our li - ber - ty Bo - dy, spi - rit,

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we can see God is al - ways plant - ing seeds
free - dom comes And we fin - ally see the sun
all a - round New life springs up from the ground
mind and heart Li - ber - ate each cap - tive part

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