



**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!”*

*March 1, 2026*

 **Second Sunday in Lent** | Luke 7:36-50; Matthew 25:35-40  
**the good news is... great love for God and neighbor**

**Worship Leaders:**  
**Pastor: Michael Small**  
**Liturgist: Chris Kolp**  
**Greeter: Gay Jacobson**  
**Special Music: Community Choir**  
**Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb**

**Tech:** Ace Diehl (Video), Samuel 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

One: Tell me something good!

**All: God loves you more than you could imagine.**

One: Tell me something good!

**All: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

One: Tell me something good!

**All: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

One: This is good news indeed!

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† For those who are able, please stand.

**All: Let us worship our compassionate God.**

### **A TIME OF CENTERING**

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

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: Family of faith,  
we long to love others as God loves us,  
but that work is easier said than done.  
We lose our way.

We become distracted.  
We grow fearful.  
We **need** God's grace.

Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given.  
So join me in the Prayer of Confession.  
Join me in being transformed.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,**  
**did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?**  
**Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?**  
**Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?**

**Or did we cross the street?**  
**Did we avert our eyes?**  
**Did we come up with every excuse in the book?**

**God, we long to be people who love our neighbors**  
**with the same overwhelming love that you have for**  
**them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go.**

**Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear**  
**get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try**  
**again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

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† For those who are able, please stand.

## WORDS OF GRACE

One: Faith family,  
even when we act with judgment,  
even when we are guided by fear,  
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,  
God does not turn God's back on us.

So join me in this good-news declaration:

**All: We are seen.  
We are forgiven.  
We are invited to try again.  
Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

## † PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Community Choir

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Good news God,  
speak louder than the news updates.  
Speak louder than our mental distractions.  
Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear.  
God, speak loudly to us today,  
because we long to hear your good news once more.  
With hope we pray, amen.

**Focus Scripture: Luke 7:36-50** *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 679). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to dinner. Jesus went to his house and reclined at table. <sup>37</sup> A woman who had a low reputation in that town came to the house. She had learned that Jesus was dining with the Pharisee, so she brought with her an alabaster jar of perfumed oil. <sup>38</sup> She stood behind Jesus, crying, and her tears fell on his feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the oil.

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee saw this, he said to himself, "If this fellow were the Prophet, he'd know who this woman is that is touching him, and what a low reputation she has."

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<sup>40</sup> In answer to the Pharisee's thoughts Jesus said, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, Teacher," he said.

<sup>41</sup> "Two people owed money to a creditor. One owed the creditor the equivalent of two years' wages; the other, two months' wages. <sup>42</sup> Both were unable to pay, so the creditor wrote off both debts. Which of them was more grateful to the moneylender?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "I suppose the one who owed more."

Jesus said, "You are right."

<sup>44</sup> Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "See this woman? I came into your house and you gave me no water to wash my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and dried them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss of greeting, but she covered my feet with kisses. <sup>46</sup> You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with oil. <sup>47</sup> For this reason, I tell you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven—see how much she loves! But the one who is forgiven little, loves little."

<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> Those also sitting at the table began to ask among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Meanwhile Jesus said to her, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

**Matthew 25:35-40** *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 657). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; <sup>36</sup> naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.' <sup>37</sup> Then these just will ask, 'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?' <sup>40</sup> The ruler will answer them, 'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.'

## REFLECTION

**"Touching the Feet of Jesus"**

## HYMN

**"I Come With My Devotion"**

Insert

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† For those who are able, please stand.

# I Come With My Devotion

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6 D ("O Jesus I Have Promised")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Arthur H. Mann (1881)



I come with my de - vo - tion to love and serve  
I hear my Sa - vior's call - ing to serve the lost  
God made us in God's im - age each per - son whom



my God Whose lov - ing cos - mos formed me  
and least The hun - gry and im - pris - oned,  
we meet Ex - tra - va - gant - ly lov - ing



be - fore I e - ver sought The glo - ry of the  
the bro - ken ones like me For in each act of  
all of hu - man - i - ty So I'll re - turn the



hea - vens or praise on earth be - low So ev - ery  
kind - ness it's Christ for whom we care All wor - thy  
love which has formed me from the start — Lov - ing



gift I have now I lay be - fore the throne  
of our love — since it's God's face we bear  
my cre - a - tor, my - self, and ev - ery heart

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

One: In this body, water.

All: In these bodies, water.

One: In this bread, these grapes, water.

All: In this flesh, these bones, water.

One: Under this floor, water.

All: Above this roof, water.

One: All water is a part of all water everywhere.

All: As a part of one another, of this earth,  
of the Living Water that brings new life,  
all are welcome at this table.

### PRAYER

One: First, the water was deep chaos and the beginning,  
and the Holy witnessed its goodness.

Then, the water was flooding destruction and the end,  
and the Holy vowed, never again.

And then, the water was a saving path and freedom,  
and the Holy brought forth liberation.

Then, the water was a sacred sign and grace  
and the Holy said, beloved

And then, the water was a new way and birth,  
and the Holy promised, this is how the kingdom comes.

Then the water was kneeling and washing feet And the Holy said, this is what  
love looks like. And then the water was a body broken and blood poured  
out and the Holy prayed, remember.

“Toni Morrison writes, “All water has a perfect memory and is forever trying to get  
back to where it was. Back to the body of earth, of flesh, back to the mouth,  
the throat, back to the womb, back to the heart, to its blood, back to our  
grief, back back back.”

Will we remember from where we've come? The water.

And once remembered, will we return to that first water, and in doing so return to  
ourselves, to each other?

Do you think the water will forget what we have done, what we continue to do?”

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: We remember that night during the Passover Jesus had his last meal at a table, with those closest to him. There, they shared their love of God and Jesus and of each other.

In the midst of love, Jesus gave thanks and broke the bread and said, something like this, "Take and eat this gift from the earth and from the human hands that prepared it and know that God gives it to you, a blessing for your body and your spirit."

Later, Jesus took a cup and after blessing it said something like this, "Drink this fruit of the vine, the gift of the sun and labor in the fields. Taste and know the goodness of God."

## HYMN

### "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#347

## COMMUNION SERVED

*(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 THANKSGIVING

One For the bread and the cup, for the quenching of communion,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: For the flow of liberation which the world cannot destroy,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: For the hope of water and Spirit and kingdom come,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

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† For those who are able, please stand.

One: Jesus of Nazareth,  
your love for this world is so strong.  
It's like a jar of perfume broken in a crowded room—  
it permeates everything it touches.

God, we long to love like that.  
We long to love you with the same extravagant abundance that the woman with  
the alabaster jar displayed.  
However, we often get in our own way.

Holy God, today we pray:  
when it comes to our neighbors,  
give us eyes to see as you see.  
Give us hands to serve as you serve.  
Give us arms to hold.  
Give us feet to journey alongside.  
Give us hearts of compassion, just like yours.

God, our love does not stop with our neighbor.  
We also long to love you.

So when we pass a field of purple, remind us to say thank you.  
When we hear the sound of laughter, remind us that there is good in this  
world. When music or birdsong moves our soul, remind us that you are  
always present with us.

In all of these moments, turn our hearts toward you.  
May we be the next ones to love boldly, to sing praise, to say thank you.

With gratitude for the woman and her alabaster jar,  
we pray together using the words your son taught us to pray, saying. . .

## 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

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Community Choir

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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† For those who are able, please stand.

One: The season of Lent invites us to consider what it means for us to live life sacrificially, to lean into Jesus' call to costly discipleship. How might God be calling you to a new way of sharing your resources to build care and equity in our communities and world? Let us offer whatever gifts we have to love the world like God did in giving God's Son.

## **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: For the loving of the world, these gifts.

For the flowing of the water, these hearts.

For the coming of the kingdom, these lives.

May it be so. Amen.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**It sounds like welcome and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,  
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,  
even when mercy feels out of reach,**

**I remember the one who welcomed the children  
and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable  
and inspired those around him.**

**I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive  
in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

†HYMN

**“Won't You Let Be Your Servant?”**

#539

## **PARTING WORDS**

One: As you leave this place,

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† For those who are able, please stand.

when you meet anger, speak with love.  
When you meet fear, speak with hope.  
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.  
But no matter what, speak this good news.  
For the good news of the gospel is  
love and justice for all.  
It is joy that surprises,  
and nonviolence that transforms.  
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,  
so go forth speaking.  
For if you won't, then who will?  
Thanks be to God  
for this good, good news.  
Amen.

## POSTLUDE

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

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