



**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!”

April 19, 2026 – Third Sunday After Easter

“Going On”

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Michael Small

Liturgist: Bev Jorland

Greeter: Doris Splichal

Special Music: EmBELLishment

Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

RINGING OF THE HOUR

† HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation”

#386

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 116)

One: We call upon the name of the Holy One who hears our cry and responds to our prayer. What shall we return to the Holy One for all the blessings we receive?

All: We will call upon the name of the Holy One for as long as we live.

One: The Holy One has been our Companion in suffering and our Comforter in anguish. What shall we return to the Holy One for their presence among us?

All: We will serve the Holy One and be companions and comforters for God’s people.

One: The Holy One has given a new covenant of salvation, redemption, and

† For those who are able, please stand.

restoration for the world. What shall we return to the Holy One for the gift of covenantal love?

**All: We will declare the goodness of God with praise and thanksgiving.
Hallelujah! Bless the name of the Holy One!**

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: Living God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence, revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence. Open our minds again so that we may recognize you when you meet us in unexpected moments. Let us encounter you in every phase and movement of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. And, may that love burn brightly like the sun cutting through the gloom of the storm to inspire us to go on with renewed hope and spirit. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Spirit of the Living God, we ask you to meet us in those moments when we recognize that we have caused, through action or inaction, through words or silence, through participation or lack of participation, that we have caused or allow harm to take place. In those moments, allow our hearts to break in order to be mended with the burning fire of repentance and sharpening. In those moments, let our hearts cry, "what should we do?" In those moments, guide us to wisdom and discernment< Holy Spirit, so that we would not only be forgiven but gifted with the work of repair and restoration. 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: Beloved, the Holy Spirit continues to be our present companion. When we seek them, the Spirit responds with wisdom, hope, and peace. Be encouraged that the Holy One awaits to meet us where we are in order to journey with us to where we could be for the glory of God and the good of the world.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

† For those who are able, please stand.

Focus Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 *Priests for equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (pp. 692-693). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

¹³ That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus—which was about seven miles from Jerusalem—¹⁴ discussing all that had happened as they went.

¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, ¹⁶ though they were kept from recognizing Jesus,¹⁷ who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?”

They stopped and looked sad. ¹⁸ One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened these past few days?”

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “What things?”

They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people—²⁰ how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today—the third day since these things happened—²² some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn ²³ and didn’t find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. ²⁴ Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn’t find Jesus.”

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! ²⁶ Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. ²⁸ By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. ²⁹ But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening—the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them.

³⁰ After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. ³¹ With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight.

³² They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?” ³³ They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. ³⁴ They were greeted with, “Christ has risen! It’s true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

REFLECTION

“In the Breaking of Bread”

† For those who are able, please stand.

HYMN

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread" *(sing twice)*

#342

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Please use words that are most familiar to you)*

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

One: 1 Peter 1:21 tells us that, "Through [Jesus], you have come to trust in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God." Let us give glory to the Living God by demonstrating that trust and hope in the offering of gifts to meet the needs of our community and to manifest the love of God in us. Amen.

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: Generous God, we pray that these gifts will bring glory to your name and bless your creation through good stewardship, Spirit-led discernment, and generous love. Amen.

†HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread"

#330

PARTING WORDS

One: As you go, may your heart burn

† For those who are able, please stand.

For the love of God to ignite throughout the world
Through acts—great and minute— of compassion, kindness, and community
Through sacrifices—great and minute—for justice, liberation, and restoration
Through commitments—great and minute—to bring good news to every moment,
decision, and interaction.
Go on...enflamed with the hope of peace burning brightly from the heart.

POSTLUDE

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

Going On: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday in Easter Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

