



**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!”***

***May 3, 2026 – Fifth Sunday After Easter***  
***“Do the Works”***

**Worship Leaders:**  
**Pastor: Michael Small**  
**Liturgist: Dan Batson**  
**Greeter: Joanne Pels**  
**Special Music: Voices of Community**  
**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                                    **“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”**                                    #400

## **CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 31)**

One: In You, Holy One, we seek sanctuary. In you, Sovereign God, we seek refuge.

**All: Holy One, for your name’s sake lead us and guide us.**

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress. Our times are in your hands.  
Strengthen us in your righteousness.

**All: Holy One, for your name’s sake lead us and guide us.**

One: Shine upon us this day as we worship you. Saturate us in your steadfast love.

**All: Holy One, for your name’s sake lead us and guide us.**

## **A TIME OF CENTERING**

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

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† For those who are able, please stand.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house, a gathering of witnesses for the world and in the world to declare your goodness, to follow in your way, to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit that we collectively proclaim ourselves as your people, called to the fullness of your glorious and radiant being. Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

**Redeemer of our lives, we come to you knowing that we participate in a world often crushed by tyranny and evil. Our hearts are troubled, overwhelmed, and dismayed. At times, we feel helpless and hopeless by the enormity of the problems presenting all around us. We believe the lie of the enemy that there is nothing that we can do or that someone else is the one to do it. May you, Holy and Righteous One, be glorified in the tumbling of walls cemented in evil and fortified by hate. For this, we pray for courage and resolve to do the works needed in this hour. For this, we pray for faith, trust, and hope to believe that the realm of the possible eclipses the narrow places of improbability. For this, we pray for the boldness to pray for what the world needs and more than our imaginations may hold. 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: Chosen of God, receive the mercy of God, who calls you from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from hopelessness into resolve. God has given you capacity for strength and compassion. The Holy One journeys with you. Grace is available for you. Know that your prayers are met and amplified by the Spirit, and Christ will lead the way to life and love everlasting on earth as in heaven.

## **† PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

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

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Focus Scripture: John 14:1-14** *Priests for equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (pp. 706 - 707). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>1</sup> "Don't let your hearts be troubled.

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† For those who are able, please stand.

You have faith in God;  
have faith in me as well.

2 In God's house there are many dwelling places;  
otherwise, how could I have told you  
that I was going to prepare a place for you?

3 I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,  
and then I will come back to take you with me,  
that where I am  
there you may be as well.

4 You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

5 Thomas replied, “But we don't know where you're  
going. How can we know the way?”

6 Jesus told him,  
“I myself am the Way—  
I am Truth,  
and I am Life.

No one comes to Abba God  
but through me.

7 If you really knew me,  
you would know Abba God also.

From this point on,  
you know Abba God  
and you have seen God.”

8 “Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you don't know  
me?

Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God.

How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’?

10 Don't you believe that I am in Abba God  
and God is in me?

The words I speak are not spoken of myself;  
it is Abba God, living in me,  
who is accomplishing the works of God.

11 Believe me that I am in God and God is in me,  
or else believe because of the works I do.

12 The truth of the matter is,  
anyone who has faith in me  
will do the works I do—  
and greater works besides.

13 Why? Because I go to Abba God,  
and whatever you ask in my name I will do,  
so that God may be glorified in me.

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† For those who are able, please stand.

14      Anything you ask in my name  
I will do.

**REFLECTION**            **“A Place at the Table, A Way Through the Wilderness”**

**HYMN**                    **"In Christ There is No East or West"**                    #394

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**INTRODUCTION**

One: All the parts of this shared meal together come from the Earth.  
The seeds of grain grew with patience, tenderness and love.  
They were then gathered and milled into a loaf to be shared communally.  
The grapes used on this cup we also grown with patience, tenderness and love.  
They were gathered by the hands of migrant workers and pressed into juice to be shared communally.

We were reminded at the start of Lent this year that we, too, are from the Earth and that with patience, tenderness, and love we find ourselves here collectively willing to partake of elements that are meant to spark a new type of living in the world.

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

One: Creator be with us all.

**All: We remember the land from which we came**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We remember the patience and tenderness needed**

One: Lift up our hearts

**All: We remember the sacrifice You made to help us believe**

One: Lift up our hearts.

**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.

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† For those who are able, please stand.

[*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 PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

One: Praise to you Creator. For the gifts of Creation, the beauty of nature, the rains, the songs of the pollinating birds, the winds that carry the seeds.

**All: Praise to you Creator.**

One: For the gifts of our human existence, through the hard and the good, through the times we were wrong and the times we were right, you never stop trying to heal us and demonstrate hope when it is needed most.

**All: Praise to you Creator.**

One: For the ability to believe in the finite and the infinite. Through our brokenness you invite us to be collected again, And so here at this table, we remember.

### **SENDING**

One: Through these shared rituals, we are shown what it is to be both whole and broken, and empty and full in order for us to embody the hope of abundant life in the presence of death and that we are not in this alone – that God came to help us better know what it is to be a healing community and a healed community. Amen.

### **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**

### **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

One: Generous ones, you bear the image of the Generous God, who has provided for all needs and gives good gifts. Accept the invitation to share, sacrificially and from abundance, resources needed in this community and by our neighbors throughout the world for the glory of God.

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† For those who are able, please stand.

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

**DOXOLOGY:** *(as collection plates come forward)*  
**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.**

Tune #780

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: Generous God, may the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear. Be glorified through our generosity and the meeting of needs among and beyond us. Amen.

†HYMN

“O Jesus I Have Promised”

#493

## PARTING WORDS

One: Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in the power of God in you and through you.

Do the work of loving God, neighbor, and self.

Do the work of holding the complexity of life in tension with compassion and care.

Do the work of believing a future with hope is possible.

Do the work of nurturing that hope into a vision and vision into reality.

Do the work of glorifying God by following the way of Christ and praying with our lives.

Do the works. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

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

***Do the Works: Service Prayers for the Fifth 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.

