



First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
June 26, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday after Pentecost

I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.

— Nelson Mandela

GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Based on Psalm 77)

Leader: Let us cry aloud to God, that God may hear us.

People: We will recall the deeds of God; and remember God's wonders of old.

Leader: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

**People: You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

Leader: With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
you redeemed the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**People: Your way was through the sea, your path, through the
mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen.**

All: You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

***HYMN** NCH #303 *Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing*

*Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs ever more.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to the savior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faithful up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet's sound, Rejoice!*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION** (unison)

Most loving and surprising Creator, you are ever with us. We seek to feel your presence. We yearn to know your love, your laughter, and your will. Our sin conceals this knowledge from us. We confess we have fallen short of glory to which you call us. We allow our prejudice to obscure your image in people around us. Our self-absorption erodes community. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us joy in your service, and fellowship in your Spirit. Tickle our deepest yearnings with your playful movements, as we open our hearts to you in silence...

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Luke 9:51-62

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: For the Word in Scripture, for the Word among us,
for the Word within us:

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE (2 Times)

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

SERMON

***HYMN** NCH #599 *Steal Away*

Refrain:

Steal away, steal away,

steal away to Jesus!

Steal away, steal away home,

I don't have long to stay here!

I hear God calling,

God called me by the thunder;

the trumpet sounds within my soul,

I don't have long to stay here. [Refrain]

Green trees are bending,

poor sinners stand a-trembling;

the trumpet sounds within my soul,

I don't have long to stay here. [Refrain]

I hear God calling,

God calls me by the lightning;

the trumpet sounds within my soul,

I don't have long to stay here. [Refrain]

Tombstones are bursting,

poor sinner stands a-trembling;

the trumpet sounds within my soul,

I don't have long to stay here. [Refrain]

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** (Old Hundredth)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, the Word in flesh born low;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

O God, for loving relationships, for breath that fills our bodies, and material gifts you entrust to our care, we give thanks. We welcome this opportunity to return a portion for ministry in your name. May we be known by our passion for your word, our love of kindness, and our warm welcome. In Christ we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** TWC #689 *The Church's One Foundation*

*The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation;
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.*

*'Though with a scornful wonder
we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed:
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.*

*'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

POSTLUDE

***Those who are comfortably able, please stand.**

Pastor: The Reverend Richard Malmberg
Music Director: Amy Cann **Zoom Director:** Paul Looney
Liturgist: Jana Sellarole
Lay reader: Nancy Sloan
Ushers and Greeters: Erin and Beki Bowen
Church Staff:
Office Administrator: Jane Vesper **Treasurer:** Tracey Martin
Church Office Hours M.- F. 9 a.m.-12 noon
Telephone: 603-756-4075
Email: walpolechurch@yahoo.com. **Website:** www.walpolenhucc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following people: **Sue Durgin, Bob Rhodes,
Minna Good, Linda Graff, Peggy Graves,
Amy Cann and Dave Adams**

Ukraine Relief: cwsglobal.org

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given this week by Jane and Felicia in memory of our mothers.

June 26, 2022, Third Sunday after Pentecost Readings

Hebrew Scripture Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed,

Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 9:51–62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."