



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
July 31, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

It's the spark of love's memory inside your heart that recognizes them and most of the time they recognize you too. That spark is the magnet that always brings us back to each other. Like glue, it binds us together with an invisible cord from lifetime to lifetime, soul mate to soul mate.

— Kate McGahan

GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 49:1-12)

Leader: Hear this, all you people: give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich, and poor together.

People: My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.

Leader: Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

People: Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it. For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice that one should live on forever and never see the grave.

Leader: When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others.

People: Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own.

All: Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

***HYMN** NCH # 491 *Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve*

*Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
and press with vigor on;
A heavenly race demands your zeal,
and an immortal crown,
and an immortal crown.*

*A cloud of witnesses around
holds you in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod,
and onward urge your way
and onward urge your way.*

*For God's all-animating voice
still calls us to the race;
And God's own hand still gives the prize
with never-ending grace,
with never-ending grace.*

*O Savior, shown the way by you,
I have my race begun;
And, crowned with victory, at your feet
I'll lay my honors down,
I'll lay my honors down.*

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

Gracious God, through your goodness and love, we have life. We desire to know your presence among us, and we seek the guidance of your Word. Yet our praise is empty, and our thanks are hollow remembering our sins. We have offended you by thought, word, and deed. We have left undone righteous work to which you call us. Forgive us, we pray. Renew our hearts and clarify our vision that we might find purpose and joy in your service. Make us sensitive to the movements of your Spirit in this silence we offer...

***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: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14, 2:18–23; Luke 12:13–21

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** TWC #638 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

*Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.*

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)

God, we ask your blessing upon our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. May we find joy by giving and meaning through service. We thank you for all you have given us and pray that we might be a community known by our passion for your Word, compassion for others, and a spirit of welcome. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN** NCH #295 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

*I sing a song of the saints of God,
faithful their whole lives through,
who bravely labored, lived and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and another shepherd in pastures green:
they were the saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God help me to be one too.*

*They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong.
they did what was right, for Jesus' sake,
lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there is no earthly reason, none in the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.*

*They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is filled with living saints
who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at sea;
for the saints are just folk like you and me,
and I mean to be one too.*

***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: Minna Good
Lay reader: Kathy Yardley
Ushers and Greeters: Dale and Bonnie Woodward
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,
Peggy Graves, Dave Adams, Carol Lamp**

Ukraine Relief: cwsglobal.org

Birthdays This Week

Minna Good - August 6

Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 31, 2022

Hebrew Bible Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14, 2:18–23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:13–21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”