



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC**  
**August 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*There are basically three types of songs: loved songs, unloved songs, and transitional songs written by tired people in between the two. Love songs are cheesy, unloved songs are depressing, and transitional songs are poetry. Transitions catch the world on fire, touching on relevant topics while speaking with giddiness and despair of the lover between.*

— Ace Boggess

**GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Based on Psalm 81)

**Leader** Sing aloud to God who is our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

**People:** **God says, “I am your Sovereign God, who brought you up  
out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.”**

**Leader:** But God’s people did not listen; they would not submit to God.  
So they were left to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

**People:** **O that we would listen to God, that we would walk in the ways of the Holy One!**

**All:** **God would feed us with the finest of wheat, and with honey,  
from the rock, our God would satisfy us.**

**\*HYMN** NCH #407 *How Firm a Foundation*

*How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand  
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."*

*"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
delivering you from your deepest distress."*

*"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed  
your soul to make pure just as gold is refined."*

*"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"*

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

God of crashing wave and gentle rain, creator of every star, you kindle a light in each of us. We offer you praise and thanksgiving. We hope to share visions you grant us. Together, we hope to discover a wider vision. We yearn to feel your presence and to follow your way. But our intent is muddled by our sin. Anxiety clouds our faith and fear inhibits love. We are unable to find stillness we need to know you. Forgive us, we pray. Cleanse our hearts and open us to the possibilities you offer. Renew our spirits and reveal your presence 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:** Jeremiah 23:23–29; Luke 12:49–56

## 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 # 485 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

*O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in you.  
I give you back the life I owe,  
that in your ocean depths its flow  
may swell with ardor true.*

*O Light that follows all my way,  
to you I yield my flick'ring flame;  
Renew my spirit's feeble ray,  
that from your brilliant sunlit day  
it may new brightness claim.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
To you I cannot close my heart;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and know the promise is not vain,  
that you will never depart.*

*O Cross that raises up my head,  
from you I dare not seek to flee;  
Life's glories wither and are dead,  
but from the ground their blossoms red,  
life that shall endless be.*

## **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)

Gracious, God, we are grateful for this opportunity to give a portion of what you have entrusted to us. Inspire us as we dedicate it to ministry in your name. Give us wisdom, compassion, and joy as we journey together on the paths of service and discipleship. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

**\*HYMN** TWC #708 *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

*Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one  
our comforts and our cares.*

*We share each other's woes,  
each other's burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.*

*When we are called to part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.*

**\*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:** Jane Malmberg  
**Liturgist:** Linda Wright  
**Lay reader:** Jane Vesper  
**Ushers and Greeters:** Sandy Pickering and Ann Looney  
**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](mailto:walpolechurch@yahoo.com). **Website:** [www.walpolenhucc.org](http://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](http://cwsglobal.org)

**Birthdays This Week**

Marilyn Blake, 8/15, Carol Lamp 8/15, Harry Boynton 8/16  
Caitlin Caserta 8/18, Judy Foley 8/18, Frank Sibley 8/20

## **Readings for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 14, 2022**

### **Hebrew Bible Lesson: Jeremiah 23:23–29**

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

### **Luke 12:49–56**

“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’, and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?