



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC  
November 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Reign of Christ Sunday**

*The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it,  
but in the end, there it is.*

—Winston Churchill

**GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Based on Psalm 46)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains  
tremble with its tumult.**

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the faithful.

**People: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
God's voice is heard, and the earth melts.**

**The Holy One of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Leader: God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; the Holy One breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, God burns the chariots with fire!

**All: Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth!**

**\*HYMN** TWC #376 *We Gather Together*

(words and music on last page)

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

God, the beauty and bounty of creation speak of your goodness. We gather together in this company to offer you joyous praise and heartfelt thanksgiving. Yet, the memory of our sins weighs on our hearts. We confess that we have not loved you with whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have loved ourselves poorly. Forgive us, we pray. Kindle within us a passion to do your will and grant us the courage to follow where you lead. Be known to us in the silent prayers of our hearts...

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SUNG AMEN**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 23:33-43

**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 #420 *We Praise You, O God*

(words and music on last page)

**CALL TO OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

*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)

At our hearts prompting, O God, we offer this portion what you have given us. Bless these gifts and all that we offer of time, ability and money, that they may be employed faithfully in your service. Inspire us with wisdom and guide us with compassion, so that your light shines from all that we say, all that we do, and all that we are. In Christ we pray. Amen.

### \*HYMN    NCH#28                    *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain ]

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

For yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
agent of God's grand design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven. [Refrain]

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE    *Go Now in Peace*

*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 able, please stand.

**Pastor:** The Reverend Richard Malmberg  
**Music Director:** Amy Cann, **Zoom Director:** Paul Looney  
**Liturgist:** Chuck Shaw  
**Lay reader:** Nancy Sloan  
**Ushers and Greeters:** Janet Wilson and Jane Vesper

### **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,  
Dean Prentiss, Paul Price, The Graves Family,  
The Westmorland United Church, UCC  
David Price**

**Members living in retirement homes.  
Patsy Campbell, Gina Nason, Virginia Putnam,  
Vaughnette Neal, Carol Lamp**

Sue Durgin, Pheasant Wood, 50 Pheasant Road  
Peterborough, NH 03458

Ukraine Relief: [cwsglobal.org](http://cwsglobal.org)

### **Birthdays this week:**

Nancy Sloan, 11/20, Dale Woodward 11/22

### **Anniversaries this week:**

Tom and Christie Winmill 11/23

The altar flowers are given this week by Nancy Sloan

All Hymns are at the end of this bulletin

## **Readings for Reign of Christ Sunday, November 20, 2022**

### **Lesson from the Hebrew Bible: Jeremiah 23:1–6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

### **The Gospel Lesson: Luke 23:33–43**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying,

“Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

## We Praise You, O God

420

*Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.*

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;  
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;  
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,  
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.  
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.  
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

*Julia Bulkeley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.*

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.  
 Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

GOD IN CREATION

# 376 We Gather Together

*If God is for us, who can be against us? Rom. 8:31*

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;  
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,  
3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;  
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;  
and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be;

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,  
so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning:  
let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:

sing prais - es to his name: he for - gets not his own.  
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine!  
thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

WORDS: Netherlands folk hymn; tr. Theodore Baker, 1917  
MUSIC: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

KREMSER  
12.11.12.11.