



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
January 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday after Epiphany**

“I must not just live my life; I will not just spend my life. I will invest my life.”

–Helen Keller

“In the quest to know God, may we do ordinary things extraordinarily well.”

--Francis de Sales

PRELUDE/GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Based on Psalm 27)

Leader: God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: **Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
In time of war, I will be confident.**

Leader: One thing have I asked of God; that I may dwell in
the house of the Almighty all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of
The Eternal One, and to inquire in God’s temple.

People: **God will shelter me in the day of trouble;
the Holy One will conceal me under the cover of God’s tent,
and set me high upon a rock.**

Leader: My head shall be lifted up. I will make offerings in God's tent
with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to our God.

People: Hear me, O God, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

**All: We shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living!
We wait for God and find strength. Our hearts take courage;
even as we wait for the Sovereign God.**

***HYMN** TWC #669 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

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

O God, you created us in your image. Our souls seek to know you. Our hearts lighten at the promise of your steadfast love. We yearn for the kiss of your Spirit. We know you are a God of mercy and a God of judgment. Therefore, we quake in memory of our sin. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have squandered opportunities to serve you through serving others. We have degraded your image within us. Forgive us, we pray. Renew our confidence in your love, that emboldens and softens our hearts. Allow us to feel the presence 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

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 #642 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

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)

O God, we give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. We thank you for the opportunity and ability to give. We ask your blessing on this offering that we may be good stewards and faithful disciples, ministering in your name. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

*HYMN NCH #172 *Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult*

***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:** Luke Bowen
Liturgist: Minna Good
Lay reader: Nancy Sloan
Ushers and Greeters: Pat and Bill Kingsbury

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,
Dean Prentiss, David Price, Janet Wilson, Vaughnette Neal
and her family, Leroy Watson**

Members living in retirement homes.

**Patsy Campbell, Gina Nason,
Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp**

Ukraine Relief: cwsglobal.org

Birthdays This Week:

Ginny Galloway 1/22, Bob Rhodes 1/24

The altar flowers today are given by Charlie Lennon in honor of his mom, Carole Longley.

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The Epistle Lesson: I Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers, and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers, and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of

Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.