



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
May 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Pentecost Sunday**

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

— St. Teresa of Ávila

Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, and Pentecost is God in us.

— Robert Baer

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 104)

Leader: O God, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**People: Beyond is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with things innumerable,
living things both small and great.**

Leader: Across it move ships and Leviathan
which you did form to sport in it.
These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

**People: When you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

Leader: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die, and return to the dust.

**People: When you send forth your Spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

Leader: May the glory of God endure for ever!
May the Eternal One rejoice, who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!

**People: We will sing to the Holy One as long as we live.
We will sing praise to God while we have being.**

**All: May our meditations be pleasing to God.
In the Almighty we rejoice.**

HYMN* NCH #86 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

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

Creator God, pour your spirit upon us, into us, and among us. Come, Holy Spirit. Make yourself known in our midst. Grant that we may perceive your work in gentle rain, crashing sea, the caring touch of a friend, in prophetic cries denouncing injustice, and announcing freedom. Grant that we may know your presence, becoming that presence for others, the Body of Christ in the world. We know we have fallen short. We ask your forgiveness so we may rise to serve you anew. Hear us, touch us, as we offer you the silent confessions 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

Prayer for our Country (unison)

O Guardian of life and liberty, may our nation
always merit your protection.

Teach us to give thanks for what we have by sharing
with those who are in need.

Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation,
and alert to the care of the earth.

May we never be lazy in the work of peace;
may we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals.

Grant our leaders wisdom and forbearance.

May they govern with justice and compassion.

Help us all to appreciate one another,
and to respect the many ways that we may serve You.

May our homes be safe from affliction and strife,
and our country be sound in body and spirit. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Acts 2:1-8, 11-21; John 20:19-23

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** NCH #282 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

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)

God, with grateful hearts, we offer this portion of the blessings you have given. We pray that you bless these gifts and all who give of time, talent, and treasure. Grant us wisdom and compassion to serve with a spirit of love and shine your light in this place. In Christ we pray. Amen.

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

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 comfortably able, please stand.

Pastor: The Reverend Richard Malmberg
Organist: Bill McKim, **Zoom Director:** Paul Looney
Lay reader: Linda Wright
Ushers and Greeters: Tom and Chris Miller
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

Please pray for the following people:

Bob Rhodes, Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Marjorie McGill,

George Jeffrey, Minna Good

Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:

Gina Nason, Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

The altar flowers are given this week by Jane Vesper and Felicia Phillips.

Readings for Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023

Lesson from The Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:1-8, 11-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?... Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in

Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

The Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."