



First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
February 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Transfiguration Sunday

*All that is alive tends toward color, individuality, specificity, effectiveness, and opacity.
All that is done with life inclines toward knowledge, abstraction,
generality, transfiguration, and transparency.*

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 50)

Leader: The mighty one, God the Sovereign, speaks and summons the earth,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**People: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
Our God comes and does not keep silent.**

Leader: Before God is a devouring fire
and a mighty tempest is all around the Holy One.
God calls to the heavens above and to the earth,
so that God may judge the people.

**People: Our God calls us, saying "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"**

All: The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God is the only judge.

HYMN* NCH #1 *Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION* (unison)

God, you created us and set your purposes before us. You fill us with your Spirit and call us by name. Too often we ignore your call. We defile your creation, and ourselves, placing too little importance on what we do and say. We ignore the needs of others. Forgive us, God. Grant us riches born of simple needs and humble desires. Lead us to our greatest joy serving you. Open our hearts to 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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9

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 #517 *I Need You Every Hour*

CALL TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY*

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION* (unison)

God, we ask your blessing on our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Grant us the joy of generosity. Employ all that we have and all that we are to your purposes. Form and reform us into a community known for attentiveness to your Word, passion for justice, and spirit of welcome. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

HYMN* NCH #68 *God Is Truly with Us*

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: Reverend Richard Malmberg

Ushers and Greeters: Erin and Beki Bowen

Musician: Sharon Nelson

Lay reader: Nancy Sloan

Zoom Director: Paul 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. **Website:** www.walpolenhucc.org

Please pray for the following people:

Bob Rhodes, Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury,
George Jeffrey, Chuck Shaw, Linda Smith,
Linda Jeffrey, Ann Rogers, Stephen Hill, Dave Adams,
Phil Rogers, Keith Sayers, Ellen Adams.

Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:

Gina Nason, Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

The flowers today are given by Austin and Sandy Pickering

Happy Valentine's Day

The deacon for the month of February is Kathy Yardley

**Convenient Online Giving to the First Congregational Church of Walpole is available through our website.
Thank you for your support!**

<https://apps.digigiv.org/o/walpolenhucc>

2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

² Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰ He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Mark 9:2-9

The Transfiguration

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one^[a] on earth could brighten them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved;^[b] listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.