



First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
June 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday After Pentecost

*Nothing is lost that we do not first see as lost.
Visions born of fear give birth to our failing.
Visions born of hope give birth to our success.
What is possible lives within us, and
it only remains for us to discover it.*

— Terry Brooks

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP* (based on Psalm 138)

Leader: I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart;
before the hosts of heaven I sing your praise.

**People: I bow down in your holy temple
and give thanks for your steadfast love
and your faithfulness. Your word is exalted above all.**

Leader: On the day I called, you answered me.
My strength of soul you increased.

**People: All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, God,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

Leader: They shall sing of the ways of our God.
Great is the glory of the Almighty.

**People: Though our God is high, the Holy One regards the lowly.
But the arrogant, God knows from afar.**

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against all danger
and your right hand delivers me.

**All: God's purposes shall be fulfilled.
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION* (unison)

Loving and surprising Creator, we trust you are with us and we yearn to feel your presence. We seek to know your love, your justice, and your will. And yet, our sin conceals the path you set before us. We confess that we have fallen short. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and loved ourselves poorly. Forgive us, we pray. Give us courage to follow the ways of Jesus as we open our hearts to you in silence...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST*

Leader: May the peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: 1 Samuel 8:4-11,16-20; Mark 3:20-35

Lesson from Hebrew Bible: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only, you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots.

He will take your male and female slaves and the best of your cattle and donkeys and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And on that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you on that day."

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! We are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 3:20-35

Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a

strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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 #503 *O Savior Let Me Walk with You*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING

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. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION* (unison)

God, we offer what you have given us. Bless the hours, skill, and money we offer so each may be dedicated to your service. Guide us by your wisdom and inspire us with your love, so that we may be known by passion for your Word, commitment to justice, and welcome to all you guide to our door. In Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN* TWC #558 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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: Dale and Bonnie Woodward

Organist: Seth Phoenix

Lay reader: Kathy Yardley

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, Carole Hill,
Keith Sayers, Janet and Bruce Martin, Erin Bowen.
Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:

Gina Nason, Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

The altar flowers today are given in honor of Ernie from Janet Wilson.

The deacon for the month of June is Peter Graves.

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>