



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
July 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Food is national security. Food is economy.
It is employment, energy, history.
Food is everything.
—José Andrés*

*Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired,
signifies in the final sense a theft
from those who hunger and are not fed,
those who are cold and are not clothed.
—Dwight D. Eisenhower*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP* (based on Psalm 145)

Leader: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: The Holy One is good to all. God's compassion reaches all creation.

Leader: All shall give thanks to you, O God, and your faithful
shall bless you.

**People: They shall speak of the glory of your dominion and tell of your power.
All shall know your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your dominion.**

Leader: Your reign, O God, is everlasting, and your dominion
endures throughout all generations.

**All: God is faithful in every word, and gracious in every deed. God upholds
all who are falling and raises all who are bowed down.**

HYMN* NCH #495 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION* (unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for your glorious creation and for our place in it. We thrill at the movements of your Spirit among us and within us. Yet our sin dulls our sensitivity to your presence, and it confounds our efforts to build community. We confess we have sinned against you and one another by thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us, we pray. Gather us to your purpose that we might know joy and peace in your service. Open our hearts to your love in this silence we offer...

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: 2 Kings 4:42-44; John 6:1-21

2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴² A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. ⁴³ "How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked. But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over.'" ⁴⁴ Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.

John 6:1-21

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." ²¹ Then

they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

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 #712 *The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy*

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)

Gracious, generous God, you have given us so much. We are grateful for the opportunity and ability to give from what you entrust to us. Inspire us, as we dedicate our offering to ministry in your name. Grant us wisdom, compassion, and joy as we travel paths service and discipleship. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

HYMN* NCH #595 *Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)*

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

*Please stand if you are comfortably able.

Pastor: Reverend Richard Malmberg

Usher/Greeter: Bonnie Woodward

Musician: Anna Dunn

Lay reader: Peg Winnen

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,
Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

Members living in retirement homes:

Gina Nason, Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

The deacon for the month of July 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>