



First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
July 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*The prophets and seers and great men and women, past and present,
were made great by what they perceived from God,
not by what they were taught by men.*

—Wallace D. Wattles

*Learn the lesson that, if you are to do the work of a prophet,
what you need is not a scepter, but a hoe.*

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

*Prophets are those who take life as it is and expand it.
They refuse to shrink a vision of tomorrow to the boundaries of yesterday.*

—Joan D. Chittister

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP* (Based on Psalm 48)

Leader: We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

People: Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with victory. Let Mount Zion be glad;

Leader: Let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

Walk about Zion; go all around it; count its towers;

People: Consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels.

**All: You may tell the next generation that this is God,
our God forever and ever. God will be our guide forever.**

HYMN* NCH #303 *Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION* (unison)

God of all creation, we seek the guidance of your Word in the loving fellowship of Christ's body. We yearn for the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. We hope for wisdom to discern where you are calling us. Help us discover our passion for your service and joy in the communion of the saints. Meet us and fill our hearts with your love, as we open ourselves to you in the silence, we offer you...

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

A 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 leader's 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: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Mark 6:1-13

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Ezekiel's Call to Be a Prophet

He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." ² As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. ⁴ The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' ⁵ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Mark 6:1-13

A Prophet Without Honor

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?” ³ Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵ He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. ⁸ These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

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 (sing 2 Times) Psalm 119:105

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.*

SERMON

HYMN* TWC # 418 *America, the Beautiful*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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)

O God, Bless these gifts we received from you, and the portion we return with gratitude and hope. Bless our work, and our meditations so we may be joyfully employed in service to all your people, and so glorify your holy name. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not lived the lives of which we are capable. We have gifts that we have not used, and gifts we have misused. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned our backs on our sisters and brothers in need, and in doing so, shut the doors of our hearts to the love you offer them through us. Forgive us we pray. Cleanse and renew our hearts, that we might resume the path of discipleship with courage, strength and endurance, even as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, we now dedicate these elements to become sacraments of ministry, signs of your work and witness among us. Do bless this bread and this fruit, and in the common sharing of them bless us all by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. In this meal we remember Christ's sacrifice and his call that we also might serve, we embrace each other along his pathways, and we look with hope for the transformation of the world in his love. May we, your servant community, become ourselves bread for the journey and fruit for the spirit among all peoples and powers of the earth. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN TWC #638 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give thanks, O Lord of Life, that you have refreshed us at your table and refashioned us in your hope for community. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world as Christ's witnesses with courage and in peace. All this we pray in the name of your son, our friend and teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN* NCH # 610 *My Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

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: Peg Winnen

Organist: Anna Dunn

Lay reader: Marilyn Shriver

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Church Staff:

Office Administrator: Jane Vesper **Treasurer:** Tracey Martin

Church Office Hours: M – F, 9 a.m.-12 noon

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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>