



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
August 4, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

*It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive
you the bread you give to them.* – Saint Vincent de Paul

*There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them
Except in the form of bread.* – Mahatama Gandhi

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 78)

Leader: I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings of old,

**People: Things we have heard and known,
that our ancestors told us.**

Leader: We will not hide them from our children;
we will tell generations to come.

**People: We will tell of God's glory and might.
We will declare the wonders God has done.**

Leader: In the sight of our ancestors God worked marvels.
God divided the sea and let them pass through it.

**People: In daytime God led them with a cloud.
All night we were guided by fiery light.**

**All: God split rocks open in the wilderness,
and gave drink abundantly as from the deep.
God made streams come out of the rock,
and caused water to flow down like rivers.**

HYMN* NCH # 84 *This is the Day*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION* (unison)

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

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 (Trespases)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; John 6:24-35

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁹Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" ¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD said to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" ¹³That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on

the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

John 6:24-35

²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." ²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." ³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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: Psalm 119: 105 (all singing, 2 times)

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

SERMON

HYMN* NCH # 419 *Now Thank We All Our God*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION* (unison)

God, we bring these gifts we received from you, and offer a portion with our gratitude. Bless our work, and our meditations so we may be joyfully employed in service to all your people, and so glorify your 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 NCH # 342 *Be Known to us in Breaking Bread*

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* TWC # 642 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

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 able, please stand.

Pastor: The Reverend Richard Malmberg

Musician: Sharon Nelson

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Lay reader: Nancy Sloan

Church Staff:

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

Church Office Hours Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-12 noon

Telephone: 603-756-4075

Email: walpolechurch@yahoo.com. **Website:** www.walpolenhucc.org

Please pray for:

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

Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:

Gina Nason, Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

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>