



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
October 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Wealth is but dung, useful only when spread about.
— Chinese Proverb

It is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.
— Henry Ward Beecher

Let parents bequeath to their children not riches, but a spirit of reverence.
— Plato

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

HYMN* TWC #2 *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

CALL TO WORSHIP * (Based on Psalm 90)

Leader: O God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
before you formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

**People: You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday
when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**

Leader: You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

**People: In the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

Leader: Turn, O God! Have compassion on your servants!

**People: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Leader: Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

**All: Let the favor of our God be upon us,
and prosper the work of our hands.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION* (unison)

God, you call us together to be your people. We seek to follow where you lead us. We long to know your purpose for us. Too often, we allow convenience to obscure responsibility. We have used words to hurt rather than to heal. Forgive us, we pray. Write your commandments on our hearts. Lead us in the way everlasting. Mend our broken hearts, as we offer you our silent confessions...

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Mark 10:17-31

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Then Job answered:

- ² "Today also my complaint is bitter;
his^[b] hand is heavy despite my groaning.
- ³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!
- ⁴ I would lay my case before him
and fill my mouth with arguments.
- ⁵ I would learn what he would answer me
and understand what he would say to me.
- ⁶ Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No, but he would give heed to me.
- ⁷ There the upright could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.
- ⁸ "If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;
- ⁹ on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.
- ¹⁶ God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me.
- ¹⁷ If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!

Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰ He said to him,

“Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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 #531 *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

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)

Gracious and generous God, we are humbled by the ability to give a portion of what you entrusted to us. Inspire us as we dedicate it to ministry in your name. Grant us wisdom, compassion, and joy as we journey together on the paths of service and discipleship. All we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN* NCH #532 Come *Labor On*

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

Pastor: Reverend Richard Malmberg

Ushers and Greeters: Ann Looney and Betty Prentiss

Lay reader: Kathy Yardley

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Church Staff:

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

Music Director: Anna Dunn

Clerk: Linda Wright

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:

Bob Rhodes, Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, George Jeffrey, Chuck Shaw,
Linda Smith, Linda Jeffrey, Ann Rogers, Stephen Hill,
Dave Adams, Carole Hill, Linda Jeffrey, Keith Sayers, Brenda Turner,
Molly Churchill.

Members living in retirement homes:

Gina Nason, Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

The altar flowers are a celebration for
Paul and Ann Looney's 30th Anniversary.

The deacon for the month of October is Becky Pearson.

**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>