



First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
October 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Do no harm.
Do good.
Stay in love with God.
— John Wesley

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP * (Based on Psalm 126)

Leader: When God restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**People: Our mouths were filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
"God has done great things for them."**

Leader: The Eternal One has done great things for us; we are glad.

People: Restore our fortunes, O God, like the watercourses in the Negeb!

**All: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!
One that goes forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy and bringing in sheaves.**

HYMN* NCH #386 *The Churches One Foundation*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION* (unison)

God of ocean tide and gentle rain, Creator of every distant star, you kindle a light in each of us. We offer you thanks and praise. We gather today hoping to feel your presence and follow your way. Yet, our meditations are muddled by the memory of our sin. Anxiety clouds our faith and fear inhibits our love. We avoid the stillness we need to know you. Forgive us, we pray. Cleanse our hearts and open us to all the possibilities you offer. Renew our spirits and be known to us in this silence we offer...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST*

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Mark 10:46-52

Jeremiah 31:7-9

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations^[a] I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher,^[a] let me see again." ⁵² Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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 The Reverend Susan Kershaw

HYMN* TWC #502 *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*

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

HYMN* NCH #393 *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds*

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

**We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Susan Kershaw, our guest preacher
this morning.**

Pastor: Reverend Richard Malmberg

Ushers and Greeters: George and Linda Jeffrey

Lay reader: Betty Prentiss

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

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<https://apps.digigiv.org/o/walpolenhucc>

The deacon of the month of October is Becky Pearson.