



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC
November 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – Reign of Christ Sunday**

*The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone,
but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.*

— Kalu Ndukwe Kalu

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.

— Aldous Huxley

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 93)

Leader: God is sovereign and robed in majesty;

People: **Our God is robed and girded with strength.**

Leader: The Holy One has established the world; it shall never be moved;

People: **Your throne, O God, is established
from the beginning; you are everlasting.**

Leader: The floods have risen, O God, the floods have
lifted up their voice and they roar.

People: **More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters.
God is more majestic than the waves of the sea.**

All: **Holiness befits you, O God, forevermore.**

HYMN* TWC #376 *We Gather Together*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION* (unison)

Creator God, you give us life, everything we need, and more. We gather to offer you thanks and praise. We desire to know your presence among us. We seek guidance of your Word. Yet our praise is empty, and our thanks are hollow knowing how we have sinned. We have offended you by our words, our actions, and by neglecting righteous work to which you call us. Forgive us, we pray. Renew our hearts and clarify our vision so we discover purpose and joy in your service. Make us sensitive to the movements of your Spirit in this silence we now offer...

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

LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; John 18:33-37

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

²The spirit of the LORD speaks through me;
his word is upon my tongue.

³The God of Israel has spoken;
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

“One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,

⁴is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.”

⁵Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

⁶But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away,
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

⁷to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot

John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my

kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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 #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. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION* (unison)

God, we offer this portion of the abundance you have given. Bless these gifts and all that we offer of time, talent and treasure as we dedicate them to your service. Inspire us with wisdom and guide us with compassion, so that your light shines in all that we say, all that we do, and all that we are. In Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN* NCH #565 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

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

The First Congregational Church of Walpole, NH is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

Pastor: Reverend Richard Malmberg

Ushers and Greeters: Ann Looney and Janet Wilson

Lay readers: Mike and Cynthia Brodeur

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, Keith Sayers,
Brenda Turner, Marie Robbins, Jane Malmberg.

Members living in retirement homes:

Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Ellie and Chuck Shaw in memory of Ellie's parents, Irv and Elizabeth Kingman.

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>

The deacon of the month for November is Michael Brodeur.
Peter Graves is the deacon of the month for December.