



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC  
November 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**All Saints Sunday – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

*It is not the length of life that matters. It's the depth.  
But while burrowing, keep the sun above you.*

— Matt Haig

*Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.*

— Mother Teresa

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 24)

Leader: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,  
who do not lift up their souls to what is false  
and do not swear deceitfully, will receive blessing  
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**People: Such is the company of those who seek God,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the Ruler of glory may come in.

**People: Who is the Ruler of glory? Our God, strong and mighty!**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up,  
O ancient doors! that the Ruler of glory may come in.

**All: Who is this Ruler of glory? The God of hosts rules in glory.**

**HYMN\*** TWC #751 vs 1-4 *For All the Saints*

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION\***(unison)

O God, you call us to many vocations and many ministries. You have united us in one communion of faithful people from every age, time, and place. You have commanded us to love one another as you have loved us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and guide us by your Word. Increase our joy in this company of believers and seekers, so we may be a blessing to one another's meditations. Open our hearts to you and to one another, as we offer you the silent prayers of our hearts...

**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:** Ruth 1:1-18; Mark 12:28-34

**Ruth 1:1-18**

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon<sup>[a]</sup> and Chilion;<sup>[b]</sup> they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. <sup>6</sup>Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept

aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” <sup>14</sup> Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you,  
to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people  
and your God my God.

<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die,  
and there will I be buried.  
May the LORD do thus to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

<sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

### **Mark 12:28-34**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

### **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 #595 *Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)*

**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 are grateful for all you have entrusted to us. We offer this portion, believing you bless the time, effort and money we offer. We seek inspiration and wisdom to minister faithfully in your name. Grant that we may shine your light in this place and offer warm welcome to all whom you guide to our door. In Christ we pray. 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. As we gather at your table,

we are mindful of your servants who have departed this life, the saints and loved ones of First Congregational Church of Walpole: *(Pause for the reading of names)*

Leader: We entrust them to your everlasting care, as they sleep in Christ.

**All:** 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 #292 *Breathe on Me Breath of God*

### **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 #295 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

#### **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:** The Reverend Richard Malmberg

**Zoom Director:** Paul Looney

**Lay reader:** Minna Good

**Ushers and Greeters:** Lester Phillips and Minna Good

**Church Staff:**

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

**Music Director:** Anna Dunn

**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, Linda Jeffrey, Ann Rogers, Stephen Hill,  
Dave Adams, Carole Hill, Keith Sayers and the family of Gina Nason.

Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:

Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp

The altar flowers today are from Janet Wilson.

The deacon of the month of November is Michael Brodeur.

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>