

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany — February 16, 2025, 10:00 a.m.



*Dost thou love life? Then do not squander Time,
for that is the stuff life is made of.*

— Benjamin Franklin

*An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest
and most fatal ailment of all republics.*

— Plato

*The real measure of our wealth is how much
we'd be worth if we lost all our money.*

— John Henry Jowet

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire
www.walpolenhucc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 1)

Leader: Blessed are those who walk not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers;

**People: But those who delight in the teaching of God, and
meditate on it day and night will discover blessing.**

Leader They are like trees planted by streams of water,
that yields fruit in its season, and whose leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

**People: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff
which the winds drives away.**

Leader: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**All: God knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.**

Hymn NCH #164 *Arise, Your Light is Come*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)

Good and gracious God, you speak out of whirlwinds and the still small voice within us. You have strewn the heavens with stars and worlds beyond comprehension, yet not a sparrow falls without your notice. Today, gather in this company seeking wisdom in your Word, hoping to grow together in knowledge and love of you. We stray from the path of righteousness with thoughtless acts and unkind words. We fail to love you with our whole hearts, and we love our neighbors as poorly as we love ourselves. Forgive us we pray. God, open us to the movements of your spirit in this silence
we offer...

Words of Assurance

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

The Children's Message

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lessons: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

¹⁰I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

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 #519 *Not My Brother, nor My Sister*

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.

Prayer of Dedication

God, bless these gifts which we have received, and the portion we return in gratitude and hope. Bless this offering, our work, and our meditations that we may be joyfully employed in service to all your people and so glorify your holy name. All this we pray in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn TWC #710 *We Are Called to Be God's People*

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.

Pastor: Reverend Richard Malmberg

Ushers and Greeters: Dale and Bonnie Woodward

Lay Reader: Becky Pearson

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Please pray for:

Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Chuck Shaw, Linda Smith, Ann Rogers, Stephen Hill, Dave Adams, Carole Hill, Keith Sayers, Brenda Turner, Marie Robbins, and our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe. Members living in retirement homes: Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp.

The flowers today are given by Richard Malmberg in honor of Jane Malmberg's birthday on February 20th and their 29th wedding anniversary on February 10th.

The deacon of the month of February is Linda Wright.

Church Staff:

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

Church Office Hours: M – F, 9 a.m.-12 noon

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