

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

February 2, 2025 10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire



*Learning how to think in the midst of fear
is a lesson that everyone must learn.*

— Veronica Roth

In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.

— Sun Tzu

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 71)

Leader: In you, my God, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!

**People: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!**

Leader: Be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress, and my might.

**People: Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and the cruel.**

Leader: For you O God, are my hope, my trust,
Eternal One, from my youth.

**All: On you I have leaned from my birth, O God who drew me
from my mother's womb. I will praise you continually.**

Hymn NCH #26 *We Worship You, God*

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God of silent soil and ringing air, we thank you for all you have done and are doing with us still. We join our voices in gratitude for the rich blessings all around us. We look to your Word for guidance and direction, We seek to follow where you lead. In this time of worship, help us to be still and know that you are God. Help us to prepare a dwelling in our hearts for your Holy Spirit. Open us to your presence in the silence we offer...

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)

Presentation of Gifts from Chiredzi

The Reverend Sara Marean
Associate NH Conference Minister

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Response:

Leader: For the Word in Scripture, for the Word among us,
or 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 #498 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

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 (unison)

O God, we offer gifts of time, talent and treasure, and dedicate them to ministry in your name. So employed, may your Spirit knit us together as a congregation with hearts open to your people reverence for our sacred creation. 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

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. 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 TWC#739 *Pass It On*

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 TWC #738 *Through All the World*

Benediction

Benediction Response *Go Now in Peace*

Pastor: Reverend Richard Malmberg
Ushers and Greeters: Sue Krebs and Lester Phillips
Lay reader: Bob Rhodes

The altar flowers today are given by Sandy Pickering in honor of Austin Pickering's birthday.

Please pray for: Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Chuck Shaw, Ann Robers, Dave Adams, Carole Hill, Keith Sayers, Brenda Turner, Marie Robbins.