

First Congregational Church of Walpole

United Church of Christ

March 16, 2025, 10:00 am - Second Sunday in Lent

God never made a promise that was too good to be true.

-Dwight L. Moody

We promise according to our hopes and perform according to our fears.

-Francois de La Rochefoucauld

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 27)

Leader: God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
God is the stronghold of my life; I shall not be afraid.

**People: Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
should war arise against me, I will be confident.**

Leader: One thing have I asked of God, that I will seek after; that I may
dwell in the house of God all the days of my life, to behold
the beauty of the Eternal One, and to inquire in God's temple.

**People: God will shelter me in the day of trouble; the Almighty will
conceal me
under the cover of God's tent, and set me high upon a rock.**

Leader: And now my head shall be lifted up and I will make offerings in
God's tent
with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to God.

People: Hear me, God, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

**All: We shall see the goodness of our God in the land of the living!
We wait for God and find strength. Our hearts take courage;
as we wait for our Sovereign God.**

Hymn TWC #78 vs 1-4 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)

God of mighty waters and still, small voice, we gather offering thanks and we
praise your holy name. We seek to discern your call, and walk in your way. Yet
our praise is hollow and our vision is clouded. We have sinned against you, our
neighbors, and ourselves, by thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you
with our whole hearts, and we have failed to recognize your image in
others. Forgive us, we pray. Empty us of our sin, and surround us with your
spirit. Be gentle with us as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35

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 #209 vs 1-4 *O Love How Vast, How Flowing Free*

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, we are grateful for the blessings and talents that enrich our lives. Inspire us to be good stewards of all that we have and all that we are. Bless this portion we return for ministry in your name. Guide us to employ it wisely and with compassion. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

Hymn NCH #471 *What a Covenant*

Benediction

Benediction Response *Ubi Caritas*

*Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi Caritas deus ibi est.*

*Where there is charity, selfless love,
Where there is charity, God is truly there.*

Postlude

Pastor: The Reverend Richard Malmberg

Lay reader: Bob Rhodes

Usher and Greeter: Minna Good

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Church Staff:

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

Music Director: Anna Dunn

Clerk: Linda Wright

Deacon of the month: Becky Pearson

Please pray for:

Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Chuck Shaw, Linda Smith, Ann Rogers, Stephen Hill,
Dave Adams, Carole Hill, Marie Robbins, our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

Members living in retirement homes: Becky Hubbard and Carol Lamp.

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

Telephone: 603-756-4075

Email: walpolechurch@yahoo.com. Website: www.walpolenhucc.org

The altar flowers today are given by Peg Winnen, in memory of her mother.

**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>