

First Congregational Church of Walpole

United Church of Christ

March 30, 2025, 10:00 am - Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Busy with the ugliness of the expensive success
We forget the easiness of free beauty
Lying sad right around the corner,
Only an instant removed,
Unnoticed and squandered.*

— A.J. Darkholme

*Your life is not a countdown to your death, but a stepping stone for the lives
that will live after you. Squander today, and you will find yourself useless tomorrow.*

— Dejan Stojanovic

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 32)

Leader: Blessed are those whose transgression
is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**People: Blessed is the one to whom God imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Leader: When I declared not my sin, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**People: I acknowledged my sin to God, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Eternal One";
then God forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Leader: God is our hiding place and preserves us from trouble.
God encompasses us with deliverance.

**People: Many are the pangs of the wicked; but steadfast love
surrounds those who trust in God.**

**All: Be glad in our God, and rejoice!
shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

Hymn TWC #558 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)

God, you give us every breath and every heartbeat. You are always with us every. There is nowhere we can go that is not filled with your Spirit. We gather to hear your Word and remember your goodness and mercy. Yet we hold back. We are possessed by our possessions and waste the time you give us. We place our desires above the needs of others. Forgive us, we pray. Create in us compassionate hearts and willing spirits. Open our hearts to the movement of your Holy Spirit in the 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 Come Forward

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lessons: Joshua 5:9-12 ; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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 #223 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

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

O God, we thank you for all you have entrusted to us. Help us to be wise and generous stewards. Guide us to employ our gifts and talents with compassion and imagination. Help us to be people guided by your Word, and dedicated to justice; who offer warm welcome to all whom you guide to our door. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn NCH #476 *My Life Flows on in Endless song*

Benediction

Benediction Response *Ubi Caritas* (one in Latin, one in English)

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: Betty Prentiss
Usher and Greeter: Peg Winnen and Betty Prentiss
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 alter flowers this morning are given by Jane Vesper and Felicia Phillips In memory of Polly and Abbey.

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 is Becky Pearson.

On the cover: *The Prodigal Son Wasting his Fortune*, 1540 etching by Hans Sebald Beham, German