

First Congregational Church of Walpole

United Church of Christ

March 9, 2025, 10:00 am - First Sunday in Lent

temptation represents a new fund of moral energy.

weathered in the right spirit

and stronger than it was before.

—William Butler Yeats

Every conquering

Every trial endured and

makes a soul nobler

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 91)

Leader: One who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
who abides in the shadow of God, will say to the Almighty,
"My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

People: **Because we have made God our refuge, the Most High our habitation,
no evil shall befall us, nor scourge come near our lodging.**

Leader: For God will give angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

People: **We will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion
and the serpent we will trample under foot.**

Leader: Because you cleave to God in love, the Almighty will deliver you;
God will protect you, because you know God's holy name.

All: **When we call to God, the Eternal one shall answer;
God is with us in all trouble.**

Hymn NCH #439 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)

God, you have created us for goodness and set your purposes before us. You fill us with your Spirit and call us by name. Too often we dismiss your call. Too often we defile your creation, your ministry, and ourselves, placing too little importance on what we do and say. We care too much about what we want. We ignore the needs of others. Forgive us, God. Grant us wealth that comes of simple needs and desires. Grant us joy that comes from serving you. Make us sensitive to your presence 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's Message

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lessons: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

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 #211

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

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 ask your blessing on this offering. Guide us to employ it with wisdom and compassion. Bless us as we journey the paths of service that you set before us. Kindle in us passion for justice and compassion for all your children. In Christ we pray. Amen.

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

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: Peg Winnen
Ushers and Greeters: Minna Good and Jane Vesper
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, Charlie Montgomery, 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

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>

On the cover: Jesus tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Artist unknown.