

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

June 29, 2025, 10:00 a.m.— Third Sunday After Pentecost



*Sometimes the most scenic roads in life
are the detours you didn't mean to take.*

— Angela N. Blount

Some beautiful paths can't be discovered without getting lost.

— Erol Ozan

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Sy Miller

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 77)

Leader: Let us cry aloud to God, and God will hear us.

**People: We recall the deeds of God;
and remember God's wonders of old.**

Leader: Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is as great as our God?

**People: You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

Leader: With a strong arm you redeemed your people.
You redeemed the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**People: Your way was through the sea, your path,
through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen.**

**All: You led your people like a flock
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

Hymn NCH #68 *God is Truly with Us*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)

God, our loving and surprising creator, we seek to feel your presence. We yearn to know your love, your laughter, and your will. Our sin conceals this knowledge from us. We confess we have fallen short of the glory to which you call us. We allow our prejudice to obscure your image in people around us. Our self-absorption erodes community. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us joy in your service, and embrace us in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. Delight us with your playful movement, as we open our hearts to you in silence...

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: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Luke 9:51-62

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 TWC #57 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Call To Offering

Offering

Offertory Anthem *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* John Rutter

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)

God, we thank you for laughter, for joy, for love and for life. We are grateful for material blessings that free us to think beyond mere survival. Bless all that we offer, and make us good stewards of all that we have, so we may be known for loving nurture, warm welcome, and passion for justice. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn NCH #43 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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.

Postlude

We are pleased to welcome special music by Jeff and Dan McCollister.

Pastor: The Reverend Richard Malmberg

Lay reader: Kathy Yardley

Ushers and Greeters: Ann and Paul Looney

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

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

Telephone: 603-756-4075

Music Director: Anna Dunn

Clerk: Linda Wright

Deacon of the month: Kathy Yardley

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

Please pray for:

Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Chuck Shaw,
Linda Smith, Ann Rogers, Stephen Hill, Dave Adams.

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

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: *Elijah Carried to Heaven*, Marc Chagall, engraving, 1956