

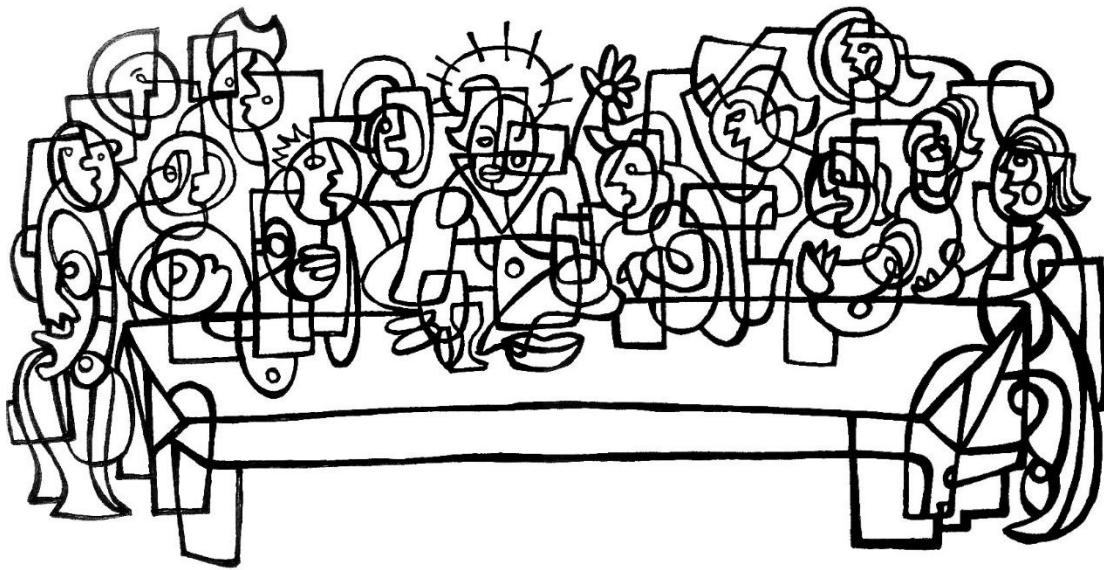
# First Congregational Church of Walpole

United Church of Christ

**April 2, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Worship**

**Service of Holy Communion & Tenebrae**



*For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

– 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire**  
**[www.walpolenucc.org](http://www.walpolenucc.org)**

## **Prelude**

## **Words of Welcome**

## **Introit**

**Hymn** NCH #218 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

## **Collect and Blessing on the Meal**

**Leader:** God be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let us pray

**All:** **God, we ask your blessing on this meal and on the meditations of our hearts. On this holy and somber night, Jesus taught us that there is no greater love than to give one's life for friends. Inspire us, in our worship and in our lives, to grow in such friendship with you and all your children that we might give and love each day, as members of the Body of Christ. Amen.**

## **The Meal**

### **Litany**

**Leader:** Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

**People:** **I am here.**

**Leader:** Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

**People:** **I am here.**

**Leader:** Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?

**People:** **I am here.**

**Leader:** Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?

**People:** **I am here.**

**Leader:** Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

**People:** **I am here.**

**All:** **The story of Christ's passion and death mirrors for us much of our own weakness and sin. We all come here as men and women who have missed the mark and who are alienated from God and our neighbor near and far.**

### **Confession of Sin**

Leader: Dear friends, we gather at Christ's beckoning in the shadow of the cross.

**People: Jesus called us to take up our crosses and follow.**

Leader: We prepare for the journey by unburdening ourselves of our sins in earnest confession.

**All: Loving God, you call us to bear a cross, and yet we collude in building them for others. We hurt others by our thoughtlessness and selfishness. We forsake discipleship in favor of comfort and convenience. We turn our backs on righteousness. We know too well the ways in which we fail you. Forgive us, we pray. Strengthen us. Help us to find joy in your service, that we might shine forth your light in the world. Open our hearts and be attentive to these our silent confessions...**

### **Words of Assurance**

Leader: Jesus shocked those of his day by proclaiming the forgiveness of sin.

**People: We rejoice in our salvation from aimlessness and sin. Thanks be to God!**

Leader: God's steadfast love brings a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Let us then share that peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **We Greet One Another with the Peace of Christ**

**Hymn** NCH #330 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

#### **Invitation**

**Communion Prayer** (seated in unison)

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 of the People**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving** (seated in unison)

God, we thank you for gathering us together at your table, for feeding us with spiritual food. In this feast of the precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, we give thanks that you have called us to be the Body of Christ in the world, bound together in a covenant of love. Grant us strength and determination to accept the cost and the joy of discipleship. Amen.

**Hymn**    NCH #223    *What Wondrous Love Is This*

### **The Service of Tenebrae**

<b>First Reading:</b>	<b>Matthew 26:20-25</b>	<b>Kathy Yardley</b>
<b>Second Reading:</b>	<b>Matthew 26:31-35</b>	<b>Jane Vesper</b>
<b>Third Reading:</b>	<b>Luke 22:39-44</b>	<b>Peter Graves</b>
<b>Fourth Reading:</b>	<b>Mark 14:32-41</b>	<b>Linda Wright</b>
<b>Fifth Reading:</b>	<b>John 17:1-6</b>	<b>Deb McCollister</b>
<b>Sixth Reading:</b>	<b>John 17:15-22</b>	<b>Mike Brodeur</b>
<b>Seventh Reading:</b>	<b>John 18:1-5</b>	<b>Anne Looney</b>
<b>Eighth Reading:</b>	<b>Mark 15:16-20</b>	<b>Becky Pearson</b>

Solo                      *Were You There?*                      Ellie Shaw

### **Rekindling the Christ Candle**

**Final Reading:**                      **John 1:1-4, 14, 10, 12; 3:19**                      **Richard Malmberg**

**The Lord's Prayer** (trespasses)

**Depart in Silence**