

# The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

April 5, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Easter Sunday



*Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project  
not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth  
with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.*

–Athanasius of Alexandria

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

## **Gathering Music/ Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Introit**

**Call to Worship** (adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:54, 55, 57)

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen today!

**People: Christ is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

Leader: Death is swallowed up in victory!

**People: O death, where is your victory?**

**O death, where is your sting?**

**All: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**Hymn** TWC #234 vs 1-4 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

### **Prayer of Invocation and Confession** (unison)

God, through the mighty resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ, you liberated us from the power of darkness and brought us into the realm of your love.

Grant that as Christ was raised from death, so may we all walk in newness of life and look for those things that are of heaven. Grant us courage to follow you, and the audacity to hope. In the name of Christ who is alive and reigns with you forever, we open our hearts in silence...

### **Words of Assurance**

#### **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you**

#### **The Children Come Forward**

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

#### **Joys and Concerns**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Sung Amen**

**Scripture Lesson:** Jeremiah 31:1-6; Matthew 28:1-10

## **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 #247 *The Day of Resurrection*

## **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** (unison)

God, we have so much of what is yours. We offer this portion for ministry in your name. Grant us courage to follow the way of Jesus, passion for justice, and strength to share your love with everyone we meet. In Christ we pray. Amen.

## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not lived the lives of which we are capable. We have gifts that we have not used, and gifts we have misused. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned our backs on our sisters and brothers in need, and in doing so, shut the doors of our hearts to the love you offer them through us. Forgive us we pray. Cleanse and renew our hearts, that we might resume the path of discipleship with courage, strength and endurance, even as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

## **Words of Assurance**

## **Invitation**

### **Communion Prayer** (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 Hymn** NCH #347 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

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

We give thanks, O Lord of Life, that you have refreshed us at your table and refashioned us in your hope for community. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world as Christ's witnesses with courage and in peace. All this we pray in the name of your son, our friend and teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn** TWC #251 *Thine is the Glory*

### **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**

**Pastor:** Reverend Richard Malmberg

**Ushers and Greeters:** George and Linda Jeffrey

**Lay reader:** Linda Wright - **Music Director:** Anna Dunn

**Zoom Director:** Paul Looney

**Deacon of the Month:** Deb McCollister

**Please pray for:**

Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Chuck Shaw, Dave Adams, Linda Graff, Bob Rhodes

Prayers for our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:

Becky Hubbard, Carole Hill and Carol Lamp

Altar flowers for this Sunday are given by Merv Stevens.

On the cover: *Easter Morning*, by Jen Norton, American, c. 2019. Acrylic on canvas.