

# The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

May 17, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Seventh Sunday of Easter



*The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil,  
but because of the people who don't do anything about it.*

—Albert Einstein

*The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.*

—St. Augustine

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

## Gathering Music / Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Introit

##### **Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 68)

Leader: God rises up, and enemies scatter; those who hate flee.

**People: Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God.**

Leader: Sing praises to God's holy name;

lift up songs to the One who rides upon the clouds—

God's name is holy — be exultant before God.

**People: God is the protector of widows and orphans.**

Leader: God gives the desolate a home to live in;

and leads the prisoners to prosperity,

but the rebellious live in parched land.

**People: God went out before the people  
and led them through the wilderness,**

Leader: The earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain

at the presence of the God of Sinai, the God of Israel.

**People: Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;**

**You restored your heritage when it languished;**

**Your flock found a dwelling in it.**

**In your goodness, you provided for the needy.**

Leader: Sing to God, nations of the earth; sing praises to our God.

Rider in the heavens, listen to God's mighty voice.

**All: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty covers the earth,  
whose power is in the skies. God is awesome in the sanctuary;  
God gives power and strength to the people. Blessed be God!**

**Hymn** NCH #305 *You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim*

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

Creator God, you made us in your image: female and male, you created us.

Loving God, you give us every breath: first to last. We pray that we may feel your constant love and share it. Too often we resist your guidance, chasing our desires instead. Absorbed with ourselves, we find it difficult to perceive your love, and impossible to share it. Forgive us, we pray. Open our hearts to all creation and everyone we meet. Give us grateful hearts and generous hands. We yearn to feel your presence and your inspiration as we offer you our silence...

## **Words of Assurance**

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

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you**

### **Children's Message**

**Lord's Prayer** (trespasses)

### **Joys and Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Sung Amen**

**Scripture Lesson:** Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11

### **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 #472 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

### **Call to Offering**

**Doxology** Old Hundredth

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God above, you heavenly host:***

***Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

### **Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

God, with grateful hearts we offer this portion of blessings you gave us. Bless these gifts so they speak of your goodness and your love. Inspire us, so that our gifts of hours, skill, and money may be employed faithfully in service to all your children and to the glory of your name. Amen.

**Hymn** TWC #751 *For All The Saints*

**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:** Deb and John McCollister

**Lay reader:** Deb McCollister

**Music Director:** Anna Dunn

**Zoom Director:** Paul Looney

**Deacon of the Month:** Kathy Yardley

**Office Administrator:** Linda Wright

**Telephone:** 603-756-4075

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**Please pray for:**

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

Prayers for our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:  
Becky Hubbard and Carol Lamp

*Altar flowers today are given by Vicky Riggio in memory of Ann Rogers.*