

# The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

May 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Pentecost Sunday



*Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God's new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet.*

—N.T. Wright

*Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.*

—Henry David Thoreau

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, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom have you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

**People: Beyond is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things  
innumerable, living things both small and great.**

Leader: Across it move ships and Leviathan  
which you did form to sport in it.  
These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

**People: When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open  
your hand, they are filled with good things.**

Leader: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to their dust.

**People: When you send forth your Spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.**

Leader: May the glory of our God endure forever,  
may the Eternal One rejoice, who looks on the earth  
and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

**People: We will sing to the Holy One as long as we live;  
we will sing praise to God while we have being.**

All: May our meditations be pleasing to the Eternal One,  
for in God we do rejoice.

**Hymn** TWC #362 *Morning Has Broken*

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

God, you breathe life into each of us. Your Spirit captivates us like the warmth and light of a flame. May we burn with desire to know your will and serve your purposes. Yet even our best impulses can be confounded by our sin. Forgive us, we pray. Make us ever mindful of the needs of others, so we discover joy in your service. Grant us vision to recognize your image in all whom we meet. Inspire us to heal wounds and confront demons we encounter every day. Open our hearts to your presence 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)

## **Remembering Carole Hill**

**The Deacon's Prayer** (in unison, see insert)

Lord Jesus Christ, Servant of all,

Send your Spirit upon us as we serve your Church.

Give us eyes to see the needs of your people.

Give us a discerning mind to know your truth.

Give us a generous spirit when we are tired but needed.

Give us a humble heart when our work goes unnoticed.

Give us peace of mind in obedience and service.

Give us health of body so we may serve with strength.

Make us fertile ground for your inspiration and love.

Comfort us when we question ourselves and our ministry.

Grant us grace as we age so we may share your wisdom.

Make our hearts like yours so we may love your people.

Amen.

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Sung Amen**

**Scripture Lesson:** Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-8, 11-21; John 20:19-23

### **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 #292 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

### **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, we offer words and song and silence in our worship. Yet our worship is hollow and incomplete without concrete acts of love. Therefore, we offer you gifts of time, talent and treasure, in joyous gratitude. Help us to employ them wisely so that in our ministry, your presence might be known more fully in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn** NCH #282 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

**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:** Jane Vesper and Ann Looney

**Lay reader:** Betty Prentiss

**Music Director:** Anna Dunn

**Zoom Director:** Paul Looney

**Deacon of the Month:** Kathy Yardley

**Office Administrator:** Linda Wright

**Telephone:** 603-756-4075

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

**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 Ann Looney.*

On the cover: *Descent of the Spirit*, by Gustave Doré (1832-1883), woodcut, French