The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

November 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Veterans' Sunday



15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire
www.walpolenhucc.org

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is king, surrounded by majesty;
People: The Lord has girded himself with power.
Leader: More majestic than the voice of mighty waters,
People: The Lord is majestic on high,
Leader: Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
People: Holiness is fitting to your house.

OPENING HYMN* NCH #592 *God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION* (unison)

God, you are our help from age to age, our fortress, and our might. You are the still, small voice and the gentle hand that guides us. You nurture us like a father and protect us like a mother. You are our ever-faithful friend. Yet we are not always faithful to you. We are silent when we should speak out. We use words to manipulate and to hurt when we should remain silent. Forgive us, we pray. Open our hearts to your healing love. Grant us courage to follow where you lead. Be known to us in the silence we offer...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST*

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

POEM *"It Feels a Shame to be Alive",* by Emily Dickinson (Civil War)
Read by Ann Looney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LORD'S PRAYER: (trespasses)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY (unison)
O Guardian of life and liberty, may our nation always merit your protection. Teach us to give thanks for what we have by sharing with those who are in need. Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation, and alert to the care of the earth. May we never be lazy in the work of peace; may we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals. Grant our leaders wisdom and forbearance. May they govern with justice and compassion. Help us all to appreciate one another, and to respect the many ways that we may serve You. May our homes be safe from affliction and strife, and our country be sound in body and spirit. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG AMEN

POEM *"In Flanders Fields",* by John McCrae (World War I)
Read by Mike Brodeur

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:31-46

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.

MEDITATION *"Remembering Veterans"* The Reverand Patrick McLoud

HYMN* TWC #358 *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

POEM *"The Watcher",* by Ridgely Torrence (World War II)
Read by Kathy Yardley

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY*
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. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION* (unison)
God, we give thanks for the ability and opportunity to give. Teach us to reflect your generosity, by giving with love and without condition. Bless this offering and all who give their time, talent and treasure. Cultivate gratitude in our hearts, so that we recognize your blessings in every breath and every moment. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

POEM *"The Sixteen Hundred",* (Korean War)
written by the men in camp 5 in Korea Read by Linda Wright

CLOSING HYMN* NCH #594 *How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies*

READING NAMES OF WALPOLE VETERANS

TAPS

Guest Minister: Reverand Patrick McLoud
Ushers and Greeters: Mike Brodeur and Linda Wright
Lay reader: Kathy Yardley
Music Director: Anna Dunn
Zoom Director: Paul Looney
Deacon of the Month: Linda Wright

Altar flowers today are given by Nancy Sloan

Please pray for:
Bill Sudsbury, Linda Graff, Bob Rhodes, Howard Jenks,
Lil DeCoste and Jim Smolnik

Our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:
Becky Hubbard, Janet Martin, Judy Daniels, Shirley Byczowski,
Fred Dill and Carol Lamp