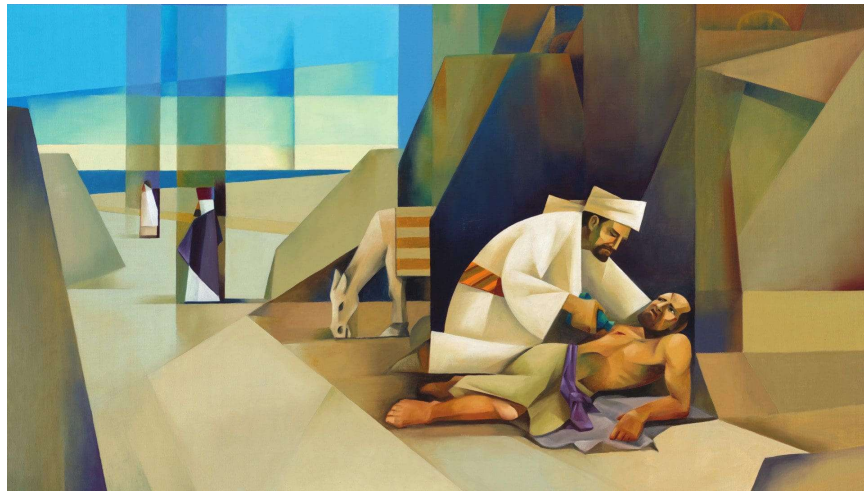


*The First Congregational Church of  
West Brookfield  
United Church of Christ*



*September 21, 2025  
10 a.m.*

**REFLECT**

**When Jesus speaks of compassion, he is not necessarily referring to feelings and emotions. Compassion can also be the result of an act of our will to do something because it is the right thing to do. We can do something compassionate even when it is difficult, even when we have no tender feelings.**

**—Jack Wintz, OFM; *Franciscan Spirit Blog*--**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison.*



*Please stand as you are able.*

Congregational Announcements

Karen Murphy

**Pastoral Greeting**

Prelude and Candle Lighting

**A “Call to Worship for A Difficult Text”**

Nancy Zurawka

*Leader: What does the Lord require of us?*

**All: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly  
with our God.**

*Leader: What does God command of us?*

**All: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all  
our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

*Leader: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.*

**All: But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.**

*Leader: Let us worship the God who believes in us,  
and trusts in us, and abides with us.*

**All: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,  
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

**A Reading from the Prophets**

Micah 6:6-8

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Nancy Zurawka

*Leader: Let us pray together:*

**All: Oh God, Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer - How do we thank you? How  
do we show our gratitude? Do you want signs and sacrifices? Do you want gold  
and cattle? Can we turn over our children to you? Would that repay our debt,  
make everything right? Tell us, what do you require in return for all your  
goodness?**

**Oh God, our teacher, example, companion - You have shown us what is  
good, and call us to remember that what you require is not repayment of debt  
or settling the score, but obedience. Show us, God, when to do justice, how to  
love kindness, and where to walk, humbly, with You. Amen.**



**Hymn** “Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”

**#581**

**A Reading from the Gospel**

Luke 10:25-37

Response: **Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God**

**Prayers of the People** Sharing Concerns, Joys ~ Pastoral Prayer

~ Lord’s Prayer~

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

Call to Offering and Offertory Music

*(Offering plates are in the front and rear of the sanctuary for your gifts; you may place them in the plates during the music)*



**Doxology**

**# 34 (Old 100th)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

**Youth Message**

**Special Music**

Stephen Page

**Sermon**

*“A Heart Extended in Mercy”*

Rev. Doug Williamson



**Hymn**

**“We Are Your People”**

**#594**



**Benediction (please be seated)**

**Postlude**



**Our Mission and Vision Statement:**

*We are a church where all are welcome to worship together, to share in fellowship and to grow spiritually in our journey with Christ. We value justice, diversity, and freedom of expression. We strive to serve our community and all God's creation and to spread the love of God to all people.*

**Welcome members, friends, and visitors to our service this morning!**

If you are a guest with us, we invite you to sign our guest register and/or fill out a visitor card. Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary for children who are with us in worship.

**Prayer Requests**

Would you like to ask for prayers for someone? You may write your request in the red prayer book on the table located in the back of the sanctuary. A deacon will share them with the pastor. Please see a deacon with any questions.

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