

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



September 28, 2025

10 a.m.

REFLECT

“Our Biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviors have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.


There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.”

--from the Season of Creation website--

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

 *Please stand as you are able.*

Congregational Announcements
Murphy

Karen

Pastoral Greeting

Prelude and Candle Lighting

Opening Sentences from Our Sacred Texts
Murphy

Karen

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. [Psalm 19:1]

All: The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy; the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy. [Psalm 65:12-13]

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. [Psalm 96:11-12]

All: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. [Isaiah 45:8]

Leader: This is the day the Creator has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. All: Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

 **Hymn**
#28

"For Beauty of Meadows"

A Unison Prayer from Ojibwe Evening Prayer
Karen Murphy

Leader: Let us join in one voice as we pray to our Creator God:

All: Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. Amen.

Prayer Hymn

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

#38

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.**

 **An Affirmation of Faith (please see insert)**

A Reading from the Prophets

Isaiah 32:14-18

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

Youth Message

Special Music

Stephen Page

Sermon

“Cherishing and Protecting the Gifts of Creation”

Rev. Doug Williamson

☒ Hymn
#24

“God You Spin the Whirling Planets”

☒ Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude

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**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  
FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION**

Pastor: Let us affirm and celebrate our faith:

**All: We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.**

Pastor: We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God’s presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

**All: We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.**

Pastor: We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

**All: We believe the Spirit renews life in creation  
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,  
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.  
We believe that with Christ we will rise and  
with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

**Amen.**



**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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***First Congregational Church of West Brookfield***

***36 N. Main Street***

***PO Box 371***

***West Brookfield, MA 01585***

***508-867-7078***

***[FCCWBWorship@gmail.com](mailto:FCCWBWorship@gmail.com)***

***[Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org](http://Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org)***

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| <p><b><i>Rev. Dr. Doug Williamson – 913-387-9947</i></b></p> |
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| <p><b><i><a href="mailto:djwnscaa@gmail.com">djwnscaa@gmail.com</a></i></b></p> |
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| <p><b><i>P.O. Box 74, Barre, MA 01005</i></b></p> |
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