

*The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield*

*United Church of Christ*



**November 30, 2025; 10 a.m.**

**REFLECT**

**"Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers."**

**Psalm 122:7**

*I think of Advent as a "pray and prune" time –a whole liturgical season in which to weed and prune in order to reset our hearts and souls as we prepare for and make the pilgrimage to the manger. Advent is here. As we make our pilgrimage through these next four weeks, praying and pruning as we go, may we each find peace within our walls and quietness within our towers. –Angie Brock--*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

 *Please stand as you are able.*

**Congregational Announcements**

**Pastoral Greeting**

**Prelude and Candle Lighting**

Stephen Page

**Lighting the Candle of Hope**

Karen Murphy and Wyatt St. Germain

Leader: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to wake from sleep.

**All: Today we throw off the bedcovers of despair.**

**We rise from the nightmare of cynicism.**

Leader: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.

**All: Soon—yes, very soon—our hope will shine as bright as the sun,  
and we will live in the light of God who is already with us.**

Leader: Our hope burns and cannot be extinguished.

*(The first Advent candle is lit.)*

 **Hymn**

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

**#160**

**A Reading from the Prophets**

Isaiah 2:1-5

**We Gather Together as Advent Begins**

Leader: We gather - people of faith and no faith,  
people of hope and no hope,  
people of peace and no peace.

**All: We gather with the longing to be made whole again,  
if just for this time, here and now.**

Leader: We gather with a prayer, however vague and tenuous,  
that in spite of the absence of virgins and angels,  
wise men and shepherds,  
we might still be a witness to the birth of all love.

**All: We gather, as ready as we'll ever be  
for this story of faith to unfold.**

**Prayer Hymn**

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

**#157**

**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.***

**The Gospel**

Matthew 24:36-44

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

**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)*

✠ **A Doxology**

**Tune: # 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**

“Engaging With A Thieving Christ”

Rev. Doug Williamson

✠ **Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**#154**

✠ **Benediction (please be seated)**

**Postlude**



## Isaiah 2:2-5 New Revised Standard Version

*Isaiah speaks a prophecy concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

<sup>2</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> In days to come  
the mountain of the house of God  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of **GOD**,  
to the house of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah,  
that we may be taught the ways of God  
and may walk in God’s paths.  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of **GOD** from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> God shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah,  
come, let us walk in the light of **GOD**!

## Matthew 24:36-44 NRSV

*Jesus speaks to the disciples about the end times, especially the day on which the Human One will come.*

<sup>36</sup> “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Child, <sup>[a]</sup> but God only. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Human One. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Human One. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.

<sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day <sup>[b]</sup> your Sovereign is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, that owner would have stayed awake and would not have let the house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Human One is coming at an hour you do not expect.



**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.

---

***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)***

***Rev. Dr. Doug Williamson – 913-387-9947***

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

***P.O. Box 74, Barre, MA 01005***