



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

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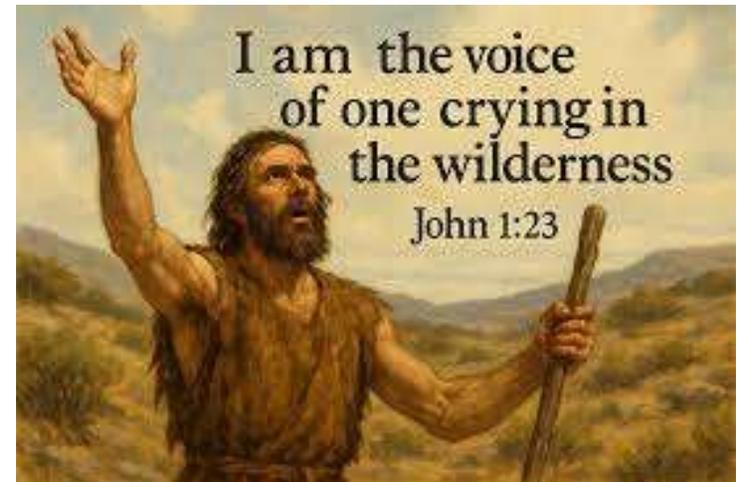
Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org

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P.O. Box 74, Barre, MA 01005

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



December 7, 2025; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

*Wild the man and wild the place, Wild his dress and wild his face,
Wilder still his words that trace, Paths that lead from sin to grace.*

*'... One now comes whose very name,
Makes my words seem mild and tame.*

I use water to reclaim, Lives that he will cleanse with flame.

You will see him soon appear:

One whose step through prayer you hear.

Christ is drawing, drawing near, Christ is coming, coming here!

--Thomas H. Troeger--

SECOND 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 Peace

Mary Deotte

Leader: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to expect God's justice.

All: Today we bless the root that is already blooming for the harvest. We welcome the child that is already prophesying to the nations.

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

All: Soon—yes, very soon—peace will not be a process painted with bloodshed.

The poor will be fed, the persecuted will be relieved, the vulnerable will be sheltered, and all people will flourish together.

Leader: God's peace outshines every fear.

(The second Advent candle is lit.)

☒ Hymn "Long Ago, Prophets Knew" #167

A Reading from the Prophets Isaiah 11:1-10

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 3:1-12

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)

Choir Anthem "In the Bleak Midwinter"

☒ 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 "Wild Thing, I Think You Move Me" Rev. Doug Williamson

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Let us unite our voices in prayer.

**All: We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells.
Amen.**

☒ Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #153

☒ Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude



*Second Sunday
of Advent*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Without exception, in this community of faith, all are welcome at God's table.)

Pastor: As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.

**All: Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life,
Source of love that knows no boundaries.**

Pastor: You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.

All: We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem; for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

Pastor: And so, We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

All: "O come, O Come Emmanuel."

Pastor: At this time, we remember Jesus, Who on the night before he died, took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

Pastor: Gracious God, Breath of peace, Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

All: Make us, while many, one. Make us, though broken, whole. Make us, despite death, alive. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Pastor: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith.

Communion is served (the bread will be served and all will partake together, then the cup will be served and all will partake together)

**[Please return to main portion of bulletin for the
Prayer after Communion]**

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