

# *The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield*

## *United Church of Christ*



**December 14, 2025; 10 a.m.**

### **REFLECT**

*"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned. May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives." -- Connections—*

**THIRD 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 Joy**

Angela Carville

Leader: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to release our weariness.

**All: Listen: the dry desert is singing! Look: the cool springs are overflowing!**

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

**All: Soon—yes, very soon—our joy will know no end. We will join the heavens in praising God. We will carry good news through the world like the wind. We will be glad in one another’s presence.**

Leader: All creation radiates with God’s joy.

(The third Advent candle is lit.)

 **Hymn**

“People, Look East”

**#161**

**A Reading from the New Testament**

James 5:1-10

**An Advent Litany (from Cordoba, Argentina)**

Leader: They told me that you came back to be born every Christmas. Man, you’re crazy!

**All: With this stubborn gesture of coming back every Christmas you are trying to tell us something: ...**

Leader: That you have a message that’s called the Gospel, and a Church, and that’s us— a Church that wants to be servant of all,

**All: A Church that knows that because God became human one Christmas there is no other way to love God but to love all people.**

**If that’s the way it is, Jesus, come to my house this Christmas. Come to my country, Come to the world of men and women.**

**And first of all, come to my heart.**

**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 11:2-11

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**

“Are You the One?”

Rev. Doug Williamson

**✠ Hymn**

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

**#191**

*(Ssshhh! Don't tell anyone we're singing a Christmas hymn in Advent!)*

**✠ Benediction** (please be seated)

Postlude



*Third Sunday  
of Advent*

**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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